THE TIMES

Wednesday September 13 2023 | thetimes.co.uk | No 74200

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10,000 feared dead in Libya

City destroyed after dams collapse World, page 29

My mission in Morocco

Vanessa Branson Times2

UK lagging behind Europeans in cancer and dementia care

Kat Lay Health Editor

The UK has fallen behind its European neighbours on cancer survival, dementia deaths and other preventable health problems, according to a report.

Without urgent reform taxpayers face rising charges for deteriorating health services, the IPPR think tank, which published the report, said.

New data shows that more than a third of people being treated in NHS hospitals have experienced a decline in their health while waiting for care.

Today the prime minister and the health secretary will host a meeting in Downing Street with NHS and care leaders to plan for what is expected to be a difficult winter.

The IPPR report, designed to inform its cross-party Commission on Health and Prosperity, concludes that British health and social care services are failing to make the country "healthier and more prosperous". The number of deaths that could have been avoided with timely healthcare or public health interventions is far higher than in all comparable European nations including France, Germany and Spain.

"We estimate that if the UK had an avoidable mortality rate similar to those in comparable European countries, 243,000 fewer people would have died in the decade from 2010," the authors said.

Fewer than one in six people say they can see their preferred GP, and seven million are waiting for hospital care. Requests for adult social care are rising, but the number receiving it is falling. The report also says that the quality of care is declining. Deaths from dementia are rising globally but "at a particularly fast pace in the UK", the authors write. In 2021, there were 64.2 dementia deaths per 100,000 in the UK. Germany had 41.2 and Spain 29.3.

Approximately 180,000 deaths from

Continued on page 2

MI5 warned Tories: MP candidates may be spies

Pair with links to China blocked from selection

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

MI5 warned the Conservative Party that two of its potential candidates to become MPs could be spies for China.

The Times has been told that the Security Service contacted the party about two individuals in 2021 and last year and advised that they should not be on the central list of candidates.

MI5 is said to have raised concerns that the individuals had links to the United Front Work Department, a body charged with influencing global policy and opinion.

The individuals were blocked from the list, which is used as a pool to pick candidates for by-elections and general elections.

"It was made very clear that they posed a risk," a source said. "They were subsequently blocked from the candidates' list. They weren't told why."

A Conservative Party spokesman said: "When we receive credible information regarding security concerns over potential candidates we act upon them."

Details of the alleged attempt to infiltrate the party emerged after a Tory parliamentary researcher was arrested on suspicion of spying.

Chris Cash, 28, was the director of an influential China policy group at Westminster co-founded by the security minister. He was also employed as a researcher by Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee.

Cash, who studied in China before working at Westminster, released a statement through lawyers on Monday, insisting that he was "completely innocent".

He said the allegations were "against everything I stand for", adding that he had spent his career "trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist Party". China called the claims malicious slander.

Ken McCallum, the head of MI5, has warned that the Chinese Communist Party poses "the most game-changing strategic challenge" to Britain. He said in July last year: "One of the things that is very striking is that they are prepared to invest in cultivating people at local level, potentially, and at the outset of their political career."

In July the Commons intelligence and security committee published a report saying that China was targeting Britain "prolifically and aggressively", but that government departments did not have the "resources, expertise or knowledge" to tackle the threat.

Last year the Security Service took the unprecedented step of issuing an alert to MPs naming Christine Lee, an Anglo-Chinese lawyer, as an agent of influence carrying out "political interference activities on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party". Lee, 59,

Continued on page 2

MARK CUTHBERT/UK PRESS/GETTY IMAGES



Royal waves The Princess of Wales, with new "mermaid hair" and strapped-up fingers after a trampoline accident, visited HMP High Down in Surrey to learn how a charity of which she is a patron helps prisoners manage addiction. Page 5

Stein's £2 fee for sauce puts the con in condiments

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

Any visitor to a celebrity chef's restaurant should be ready for a hefty bill, but at £2 a pop for a pot of mayonnaise Rick Stein appears to be testing his clientele in affluent Padstow.

The chef, whose culinary empire is centred on the Cornish fishing village, blamed "skyrocketing costs" for increases in the price of his sauces.

Rick Stein's Fish & Chips in Padstow, which opened in 2004, now charges £1.75 for condiments if customers take away, and another 25p if they eat in. The condiments, which include tartare sauce, gravy, mushy peas, aioli, Goan curry sauce, mango chutney and raita, cost £1.25 in 2017. Stein said they had not risen in price since 2020, but that inflationary pressures had forced him to pass on some of the costs.

The sauces come in paper ramekins measuring about 1.5in by 1.5in. A takeaway cod and chips now costs £14.90, and sea bass and chips £16.90.

One visitor wrote on TripAdvisor: "The tiny pot of mushy peas was £2 extra, as was the tartare sauce, as was the curry sauce. Unfortunately I don't think we will be returning!"

Rachel Simpson, 39, who has a holiday home near Padstow, said: "The tartare sauce is super tasty but £2 seems a bit of a stretch for a small pot."

A spokeswoman for Stein said: "Our homemade condiments using Rick Stein's special recipes are prepared in Padstow by our team of chefs. Food inflation, energy costs, along with rising wages, has driven up the cost of production. We have held our condiment prices since 2020 but with skyrocketing costs we have reluctantly, along with many others, had to pass on some of the costs to our customers."

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News

Today's highlights

7.05am **Maria Caulfield**, health and social care minister
7.50am **Wes Streeting**, shadow health secretary
10.20am **Jo Johnson**, former universities minister, speaks to Matt Chorley
2.05pm The author of Fight Club, **Chuck Palahniuk**, discusses his latest novel, Not Forever but For Now, with Mariella Frostrup
3.35pm The journalist and broadcaster **Clive Myrie**, right, discusses his new memoir Everything is Everything



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TODAY'S EDITION

Private school drops GCSEs
A top private school is dropping all GCSEs apart from English and maths, creating its own qualifications to "stretch" its pupils. Latymer Upper School in west London says it will regain a quarter of its teaching time by not following the GCSE timetable. **Page 4**

Triple lock under threat
Ministers may make a £600 million raid on state pension increases this year after they acknowledged that the triple lock would eventually have to be dropped. The chancellor may use a lower measure of earnings to calculate the rise. **Page 6**

Disposable vapes face ban
Disposable vapes and those with flavours designed to appeal to children will be banned within weeks. Rishi Sunak is believed to be putting the finishing touches to a package designed to restrict teenagers' access to addictive products. **Page 10**

168 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #FreeEvan



Pariah Putin turns to Kim
The North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un was given a red-carpet welcome in Russia when he arrived for talks on supplying weapons, as President Putin accused Britain of trying to provoke a Kremlin attack on a Ukrainian nuclear power plant. **Page 26**

'Misleading' BP boss resigns
Bernard Looney has stepped down as chief executive of BP after admitting he was not "fully transparent" with the board about historical relationships with colleagues. The company had opened an investigation with external lawyers, which will continue. **Page 31**

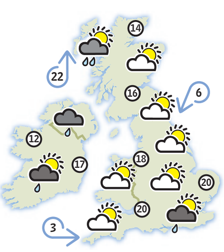
Bellingham sinks Scots
Jude Bellingham produced a man of the match performance as England comfortably beat Scotland 3-1 at Hampden Park. The Real Madrid midfielder scored one and set up Harry Kane for another. Phil Foden also made the scoresheet. **Page 62**

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THE WEATHER



Rain spreading into western Ireland and Scotland, otherwise dry with sunny spells. **Full forecast, page 51**

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Spies crackdown 'would lead to just one or two cases a year'

Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

New legislation heralded as upping the ante against hostile state activity is likely to lead to only one or two prosecutions a year, an impact assessment shows.

The National Security Act, which became law and replaced the Official Secrets Act in July, contains new powers to make it easier to prosecute the passing of information to hostile states such as China and Russia.

In July Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, said that it would help to expose hostile states trying to harm Britons and undermine democracy, and "hold those responsible to account".

There have been reports that a string of arrests of hostile state agents is pending after revelations that Chris Cash, 28, the director of the China Research Group, was being investigated for allegedly spying for China.

Cash released a statement through lawyers on Monday insisting that he was "completely innocent". However, an assessment of the National Security Act revealed its impact on the criminal justice system would be "low" with "at most one to two prosecutions per year across the whole suite of measures".

The assessment, compiled by government officials, estimates that it could result in as few as four investigations annually by police and MI5, and no more than 12. One in three investigations are likely to result in charges.

It points out the small number of prosecutions would "not necessarily be indicative of the impact of the legislation … because the government are also expecting [it] to deter states from operating in and against the UK".

The assessment points out that the deterrent factor is crucial because of the risk of death or serious injury posed by hostile activity, such as the Salisbury novichok attack in 2018. The government accused Russia of orchestrating the poisoning of the double agent Sergei Skripal, in which an innocent local woman, Dawn Sturgess, 44, was killed.

Despite the low numbers, prosecutions are expected to increase under the National Security Act compared with the Official Secrets Act, which has been used to mount two prosecutions in the past decade. The latter act was widely viewed as antiquated and not fit for purpose because it did not address the present nature of espionage threats.

The National Security Act contains new measures that address espionage under three offences of obtaining or disclosing protected information, obtaining or disclosing trade secrets and assisting a foreign intelligence service.

Its offence of sabotage captures any activity on behalf of, or for the benefit of, a foreign power that results in damage to property, sites and data affecting the UK's interests. This can include cyber-activities and national security. This can be done through, but is not limited to, the use of cyberactions and physical damage. Its foreign influence registration scheme also aims to make clandestine political activity illegal.

Intelligence agencies have welcomed the overhaul. Whitehall sources said, however, that while the new law reflected the nature of the modern threat, espionage was hard to prove.

Ken McCallum, director-general of MI5, said of the new legislation in July: "We face state adversaries who operate at scale and who are not squeamish about the tactics they deploy to target people and businesses in the UK. The … [act] is a game-changing update to our powers. We now have a modern set of laws to tackle today's threats."

The Home Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Kim's Russian trip could give China cover over Putin, Roger Boyes, page 22

China reliance poses risk to universities, study finds

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

University efforts to reduce their dependence on China have stalled or reversed, a report has revealed.

The report, by the former universities minister Lord Johnson of Marylebone and published by King's College London's Policy Institute, warns that it will be almost impossible for the UK to disentangle itself from joint research with China.

The threat from China means that diversifying the international student population at British universities is an essential risk-reduction strategy, the paper suggests. However, they face considerable challenges.

China has become the world's largest spender on research and development and UK universities benefit from the higher tuition fees paid by Chinese students. The report says that the government should provide clearer guidance to universities on how to manage their engagement with China "in a period of increasing geopolitical instability".

Some Tory MPs have been pushing Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, to label China as a "threat" to the UK after the arrest of a parliamentary researcher on suspicion of spying for Beijing.

Chinese students make up the largest group of international students at English universities. The proportion of universities taking at least half their master's students from just one country rose from 22 per cent in 2017-18 to 38 per cent in 2021-22, the report said.

Johnson, a visiting professor at the Policy Institute, said: "The sector continues to follow a 'cross your fingers' strategy that decoupling in the future is never necessary for China, in the same way it was for relations with Russia in February 2022. The China question therefore to a great degree remains unanswered."

Higher Education Statistics Agency data, released in January, showed that there were 124,370 Chinese students at English institutions in 2021-22.

A Department for Education spokeswoman said: "Universities are well aware of the possible risks associated with dependence on a single source of funding, whether that is from a single organisation or from a single nation.

"The government's international education strategy makes clear that universities must ensure they have appropriate processes in place to manage risks and a diverse student recruitment base is key to this."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MI5's warning to Tories

who denies wrongdoing and is suing MI5, had donated almost £500,000 to Barry Gardiner, the former shadow international trade secretary. Lee's son also worked in Gardiner's office.

Tory candidates are vetted by the party. They are subject to criminal record checks and an "in-depth" due diligence report, and are interviewed to assess their political judgment, life experience and integrity. A Tory party source confirmed that in the past the Security Service had given a "nudge" if it had concerns about candidates.

Part of MI5's mandate is to offer both physical and personnel protective security to businesses and other organisations including those across the political spectrum. It is an advisory role and it cannot make decisions about the employment of individuals or their involvement in the political arena.

Rishi Sunak is under pressure from Tory MPs who have been sanctioned by Beijing to formally declare China a threat to Britain. The government has described China as an "epoch defining challenge", but backbenchers want it to designate the country a hostile state.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Conservative Party leader, who has been sanctioned, said: "Even if they don't want to call China a threat, the threat exists. A bite from a rottweiler hurts just as much even if you call it a pekinese."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thousands of avoidable deaths

cancer could have been avoided in the decade from 2010 if rates in the UK matched the European average.

Rishi Sunak has made cutting NHS waiting lists one of his five priorities for this year, but progress has been hampered by industrial action by staff.

Ministers are planning for another difficult winter. Dr Adrian Boyle, president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, has warned that he fears a repeat of last year's "worst ever" winter because the system lacks resilience.

The prime minister said the government was planning for winter earlier than usual. Steve Barclay, the health secretary, said that the plans included more hospital capacity and "harnessing the full potential of technology".

Dr Parth Patel, lead author of the report, said: "With political will, health services in this country can once again be world-leading . . . through an ambitious plan to move from a reactive 20th-century model to a proactive 21st-century one."

Economic modelling in the report suggested that healthcare spending would rise from 9 per cent to 11.2 per cent of GDP by 2033-34. However, reforms could save up to £205 billion over the next decade, the think tank said, and save the annual equivalent of the present defence budget by 2033-34.

The proposed reforms include two neighbourhood health hubs in each constituency, providing easier access to services such as diabetes care and housing services. Personal social care should be free, to stop dementia patients having to bear their own costs.

Health and care workers should have their student debts cancelled and be given more control over their work, and a Royal College of Social Care should be created. The report also recommends a five-year funding deal of 3.6 per cent budget growth per year for NHS England to break the "feast and famine" cycle and fuel modernisation.

Lord Darzi of Denham, a former health minister and co-chairman of the commission, said: "The NHS and social care system is vital to our individual and national health and prosperity. Too many people are struggling to get high-quality care when they need it most."

Tanks museum sees off challengers

The Tate and Louvre trail a collection of military hardware in Dorset for web fans, writes **Katie Gibbons**

ALAMY



If he is not shooting feature-length, straight-to-camera videos about tanks and battlefield strategy, David Willey is often being cornered by star-struck fans asking him to pose for a selfie.

That is because the curator of a military museum in rural Dorset has become an unlikely social media sensation.

Just a few thousand people a year visit the Tank Museum in Bovington but on YouTube it is more popular than the Louvre and the British Museum.

The museum started producing short video clips in 2010 of staff members discussing its catalogue of war vehicles in an attempt to attract visitors. Thirteen years on, it is going great guns.

Earlier this year it became the first museum in the world to get more than 100 million views on YouTube, outdoing the British Museum's 61 million.

The Tank Museum's channel has over 550,000 subscribers, more than the Museum of Modern Art in New York (519,000), the Tate group (380,000) and the Louvre (106,000). On TikTok, Gen Z's favoured social network, the Tank Museum's account has more than 55 million views.

Willey said that he still found it "peculiar" when people recognised him from YouTube and asked for selfies.

He added: "My role is as a storyteller. I try to get a lot of information across in ways the public can engage with. The videos are an extension of this."

As the channel developed, Willey and the team found that, contrary to advice that audiences would watch for no more than two minutes, there was an appetite for longer in-depth content.

He refers to his 80-minute straight-to-camera video about the Battle of Arras during the Second World War, which has 863,000 views, as like "something from Open University". He added: "I think people want something that is slower, like a podcast running in the background as you do other things."

Although, according to Willey, the audience is primarily made up of "middle-aged blokes", the channel has also gained a younger fan base through the hugely popular online game *World of Tanks*.

Willey, who worked for the government art collection before joining the tank museum as a curator, sees its social media success as a way to get people through the doors to see the tanks. "My ultimate aim is to get people standing in front of the real thing, to hear them gasp at how big it is or get into the nuanced detail. That's the magic."

The YouTube channel holds more than 400 videos, including informal discussions about the curators' favourite war vehicles, in-depth analysis of particular tank history and mechanics and segments on the vehicles being used in the war in Ukraine. Other regular presenters include the military historian David Fletcher.

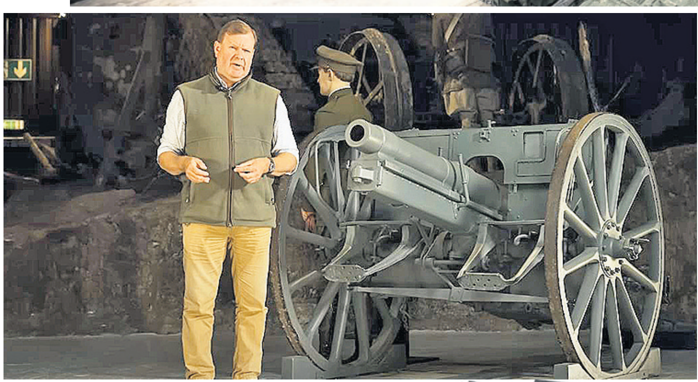
Chris Copson, an education officer at the museum who writes and presents some of the videos, said that going behind the scenes appealed to viewers. "People want to see inside tanks, so we take the cameras inside. I think visitors quite enjoy it when they see us filming from the collection."

More than 25 per cent of the museum's turnover, roughly £2 million, is generated online from YouTube advertising, viewers paying for early access to clips. In 2020 it raised £100,000 from its Tankfest live stream, which drew in a million viewers. This year 24,000 people attended the annual event in Bovington over three days in June.

Founded in 1923 and originally open only to military personnel, the museum houses more than 300 armoured vehicles, including the world's first tank, nicknamed "Little Willie", and the only working example of the German Tiger I, a tank used in the Second World War.

The museum is an hour's drive from Bournemouth and does not get much passing trade; it has only 250,000 people visiting in person each year.

Nik Wyness, the head of marketing, praised the expertise of Willey and other presenters. "There aren't many museum curators who get asked for autographs and selfies," he said.





The Tank Museum attracts about 250,000 visitors a year to its collection but this is dwarfed by the millions who tune in online to watch videos by its expert staff, such as Chris Copson, above, which generate £2 million

Children 'butchering rugby anthems'

Jack Malvern

Organisers of the Rugby World Cup will continue to play recordings of children singing national anthems before each match despite criticism from former players and spectators that they are "killing" the atmosphere.

Video from the run-up to France's match against New Zealand, and Italy v Namibia, showed the crowd struggling to keep time with pre-recorded renditions by children's choirs.

Midi Olympique, a French rugby journal, suggested that World Rugby was considering a change but the governing body said that it had no plans to do so when matches resume tomorrow as France faces Uruguay.

Brian O'Driscoll, who led Ireland from 2003-12, said that the children's versions made him "feel like they've been butchered" and that it undermined the build-up before kick-off.

"It's not working," he told the podcast *Off the Ball*. "It's taking a little bit of the shine off what's meant to be a momentous and real atmosphere builder whereas they're a bit of a damp squib at the moment. The timing's off. Where are the bands? Where's the music? The real opportunity for the crowd to weigh in behind that tension builder and that pride component that we all feel singing our national anthems. It's such a disappointment."

Rob Kearney, who played for Ireland between 2007-19, said that the performances were "killing that five-minute pre-game buzz".

Andy Goode, the former England back, wrote on Twitter/X: "Can whoever is in charge of all the anthems at the World Cup please stop butchering the life out of them!" World Rugby's decision was also criticised by the singer Lesley Garrett. She has sung the national anthem live in the run-up to sporting fixtures and said that spectators must be able to participate.

"The organisers have misunderstood the vital relationship between the anthems, the players and the fans," she told *Today* on Radio 4. "They've misunderstood the purpose of singing at sporting events in my opinion.

"It's absolutely vital … that the team and the fans and the wider audience are given the opportunity to be bound together … a lot of the choirs are pre-recorded and I think the whole essence of the relationship between singing and sport is the fact it's all live and everyone is doing it together."

England's sluggish warm-ups 'part of the plan', pages 56-57

Driving school's new pupil has 98 years on the clock

Seren Hughes

Usually school-age children jolt around the roads on the private land of the Young Driver school — learning how to brake and find the biting point in a car. However, a 98-year-old man recently joined the ranks.

Don Mitchell was forced to give up his licence aged 94 for safety reasons, leaving him "heartbroken". Four years later, the care home resident from east Yorkshire was thrilled to get behind the wheel again.

Mitchell, a former Royal Navy technician, became the oldest-ever pupil at the driving school in Leconfield, whose clients are usually under-17s looking to build their skills early. He got behind the wheel of a dual-controlled Vauxhall Corsa with a qualified instructor in the passenger seat.

He said: "It was great to check I hadn't forgotten all of my driving skills — and, like riding a bike, it all comes back to you. I hadn't realised how much cars have changed since I last owned and drove one. The steering wheel is harder to turn and the gear stick is harder to hold."

Mitchell also enjoyed seeing the teenagers learn to drive, advising them to "always stay inside the speed limit", adding: "There's an old saying, 'Rules are for wise men to follow and fools to break'." His driving experience was funded by Beverley Parklands Care Home's Together We Can initiative.

STEPHEN CHUNG / ALAMY



Sitting comfortably? Nigel Havers and Patricia Hodge star in a new production of Noel Coward's Private Lives at the Ambassadors Theatre in London's West End to mark the 50th anniversary of his death

Private school to ditch GCSEs as it introduces own qualification

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

A leading private school is dropping all GCSEs apart from English and maths and instead creating its own qualifications to "stretch" pupils.

Latymer Upper School in west London said it will regain a quarter of its teaching time by not following the GCSE timetable. Teenagers will be assessed by interviews, vivas — spoken exams — and projects, as well as written exams.

Parents were informed last night about the qualifications, which will be taught from 2027 and have yet to be named. Pupils will take a combination of traditional subjects and shorter courses.

The school said it was inspired by The Times Education Commission, a year-long project that took evidence from dozens of experts and produced a report last summer which recommended an overhaul of GCSEs, particularly as the education leaving age is now 18.

Bedales, a private school in Hampshire that already offers its own qualifications, said it would move further away from GCSEs. Others are thought to be planning to follow suit if Latymer Upper is successful.

The school is highly academic with 93 per cent of GCSEs graded at least a 7 or A this summer, while 55 per cent were awarded the top grade of a 9.

Ian Emerson, its deputy head, said teenagers would be stretched to the equivalent of a grade 10 and beyond and also be better prepared for A-levels with the new qualifications. He said the middle school curriculum would reduce stress and anxiety among pupils and had been devised in consultation with employers, universities, alumni and educational professionals.

"We've been discussing for several years the possibility of replacing GCSEs with some internal courses. The pandemic and all that came out of it was a big driver for us. Our staff just felt very empowered to say, we know how to assess these pupils. We know what we need to do," Emerson said.

Pupils who are applying to start at the school next year will be the first to take the new qualifications from autumn 2027 but some elements will be introduced earlier. The school will retain much of the content of some GCSE subjects and replace it in others but sees the main gain as time. GCSE mock exams are taken in January and the real exams in May and June, meaning the teaching of the course is often finished before halfway through year 11.

"I believe we're going to find months of critical learning time. We will do courses in history, French, physics, traditional subjects and there will be short courses as well, similar to the lectures we give in the sixth form, interdisciplinary courses on issues such as climate change or politics and economics, so that pupils can get a taste for those subjects. These will be equivalent to half a GCSE."

The school wanted to take a balanced approach, he said, but also to push pupils further than GCSEs to ensure they were mastering subjects. So many achieved a grade 9 at GCSE there was a need for grades 10, 11 and 12, he said.

Pupils will have to take English and maths at GCSE, a science, a foreign language and a humanities subject, and the school says that arts, music and drama are vital. The school said it wants to share its courses with others and to lead the way because of a lack of leadership in government to make changes.

Some critics have called for assessment at 16 to be abolished entirely but Nick Gibb, the schools minister, said recently it was necessary because many pupils changed schools after GCSEs.

Improved Sats results still down on pre-Covid era

Nicola Woolcock, Ryan Watts

Primary school children have improved slightly in maths, writing and science but their reading skills have fallen from last year.

Government figures based on the end of year tests taken by children leaving primary school in England suggest that standards are increasing slightly after the pandemic — but are not yet back to pre-Covid levels.

They show that 59 per cent of pupils met the expected standard in the three Rs — reading, writing and maths — in their Sats exams, the same as last year. The tests were not taken in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic but 65 per cent of children reached this level in 2019. Those sitting this year's tests, now starting secondary school, endured lockdowns and school closures when they were in years 3 and 4.

Attainment increased slightly in maths, writing and science compared with last year, stayed the same in grammar, punctuation and spelling and declined in reading. This undoes the progress made in reading during the pandemic. Last year it was the only area in which results improved compared with 2019.

In reading, 73 per cent of pupils met the expected standard this year, down from 75 per cent last year and returning to 2019 levels. In maths, 73 per cent of pupils met the expected standard, up from 71 per cent in 2022 but still lower than 79 per cent pre-pandemic.

In writing, which is teacher-assessed, 71 per cent of pupils met the expected standard, an improvement on 69 per cent last year but still falling short of the 78 per cent recorded in 2019.

In science, which was also assessed by teachers, 80 per cent of pupils met the expected standard, down from 83 per cent in 2019.

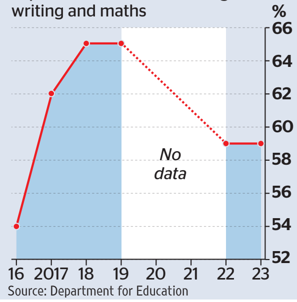
The government calculates a disadvantage gap index to show the difference in results between deprived children and their classmates. The gap fell slightly to 3.2, from 3.23 last year, although in 2019 it was recorded as 2.91.

Niamh Sweeney, of the National Education Union, said the results showed "the government's failure to meaningfully address child poverty and invest in our schools".

Pupils suffer, Thunderer, page 22

Sats results

Proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths



Source: Department for Education

University ordered by watchdog to improve

Nicola Woolcock

The student watchdog has told a university to improve academic support after publishing the outcome of its first Ofsted-style visits.

Assessment teams from the Office for Students (OfS) inspected the London South Bank University and the University of Bolton to analyse the quality of their business and management courses. The regulator said it found areas of concern at Bolton but not at London South Bank.

Independent academic experts talked to staff and students. The OfS will consider whether any regulatory action is appropriate.

Susan Lapworth, chief executive of the OfS, said: "[The reports] will prompt all universities and colleges to consider the quality of their courses, and to take action to make any necessary improvements. We will now carefully consider their findings as we decide whether any further regulatory action is appropriate in individual cases. We expect to publish the findings of further assessment visits in the coming weeks."

The OfS opened investigations into eight universities in May last year, after identifying "potential concerns that require further scrutiny".

Its report into Bolton said it found areas of concern in business and management courses on which nearly 1,000 students are enrolled. Staff were too stretched, assessment feedback was inconsistent and sometimes insufficient, plagiarism was sometimes not treated seriously enough and drop-out rates were high in some degree courses.

A university spokesman said: "Any issues were restricted to some students on some aspects of… 'academic support'. Assessors have confidence that the university is on top of the challenges."



Patched-up Kate gets a good lab report on visit to men's prison

Valentine Low

If there is one thing that is an essential part of being a royal, it is the ability to shake hands: repeatedly, publicly and with a bewildering variety of people.

Hand injuries are, therefore, not ideal. Especially when one is making one's first visit to a men's prison.

However, the Princess of Wales, always one to put a brave face on things, shrugged it off when she turned up at HMP High Down in Sutton, Surrey, wearing strapping on the index and middle finger of her right hand.

Asked if she was all right by Ken and Brenda Ash, from Weybridge, who used to visit their son Mark at the prison, Kate replied: "My own fault. I was jumping around on the trampoline." Gesturing to the strapping, she said: "I put it on just to keep it safe."

The princess was visiting the category C prison, which holds 1,126 offenders, in her role as patron of the Forward Trust, which helps people with addiction.

Before meeting prisoners to hear how they were overcoming substance dependence, she was subjected to a sniffer dog test to make sure she was not smuggling drugs into the jail.

After going through airport-style security, she was asked to sit with her hands on her knees while a black labrador called Penny checked her over.

After her encounter with Penny, who is trained to alert her handler by sitting very still, Kate said: "It's incredible. They are very calm."

The princess, who was visiting the prison ahead of next month's Addiction Awareness Week, heard from four inmates about how they overcame their drug and alcohol issues.

Kate met Richard "Steff" Stephenson, 60, who grew up in a children's home in Brixton and became a roadie with the band Madness.

He told her that he had got clean during his time in a different prison and on his release worked hard to get two degrees and start a family. He is now an NHS service manager. She told him his story was "inspirational".

She also spoke to former inmate Mark Ash, 44, who was sentenced to 40 months for drug offences. Ash, who works with the Forward Trust to support others, told the princess how he kicked his heroin addiction after coming into prison on a methadone prescription.

He said afterwards: "It is very honourable of her to want to come and step into this environment.

"What I've learnt is that your family have to recover from your addition, too, because your addiction affects the whole family. It's not just about the addict." Mike Trace, chief executive of the Forward Trust, said: "The princess thinks it's important to come somewhere like this — a big, difficult prison. This is not all sugar-coated. It's her first visit to a men's prison."

Emily Martin, who has been governor of HMP High Down since March last year, said: "It's very important when a member of the royal family comes to see the realities of life and the mechanics of a prison — what they look like, what they smell like." When asked about the recent high-profile escape of Daniel Khalife from Wandsworth prison, Emily Martin replied: "Security is the core of everything we do, as is managing risk."

KIN CHEUNG/AP



The princess is given the sniff treatment by Penny the labrador as she visits a jail that helps offenders shake off their addictions. Strapping on her hand was down to a trampoline incident

Princess of Waves turns heads with 'mermaid' cut

Harriet Walker
Comment



The "Kate effect" once referred to her ability to empty shops of any item of clothing she was seen wearing, be it Boden or Burberry. Now the reach of the Princess of Wales extends beyond wardrobes to our beauty regimes.

Her tumbling waves, dubbed "mermaid hair" on social media, have inspired everyone from nurses to newsreaders to go for growth. The style she debuted yesterday — still long and wavy but with face-framing "curtain bangs" cut in at the front — looks set to be the most requested in salons this autumn. Instagram calls it French bangs, after Jane Birkin's grown-out fringe in the Sixties. On TikTok, it is the wolf or butterfly cut. You might think the style has a hint of Farrah Fawcett about it. They are all versions of the same shaggy, wavy layers topped off with a long and middle-parted fringe section.

The royal version is less shaggy, more sleek. Many of the A-listers known for their ultra-long locks opt for a helping hand from their hairdressers to get the look. Gone are the "visible join" extensions that pop stars once used to gain length. Instead, subtle extra pieces are clipped in at the sides of the head to add bulk if needed. Her new do is what fashion types might call "on point". Many among the front-row set, once known for their long and natural-looking (though very much high-maintenance) maiden locks, have already added in a similar modish sweep at the front. HRH isn't quite ahead of the curve on this one but she is definitely in touch with someone who is.

Just as her clothes have projected a new sense of confidence and au courant cool in the past year, now her coiff does too. When I met London's hairdresser of the year Jordanna Cobella, she nodded approvingly that I had switched my centre parting to this softer style. The A-list stylist Luke Hersheson says the effect is to make hair "healthy and expensive-looking". Safe to assume the princess's was already both.

Harriet Walker is fashion editor of The Times

Game over for royals' shooting spot

Matilda Davies

The royal family will no longer be allowed to go shooting, hunting or fishing on the estate neighbouring Balmoral after a Scottish businessman axed their 175-year-old leasing agreement.

Alastair Storey, the chief executive of the catering company Westbury Street Holdings, bought the Abergeldie estate in 2021 after the death of the former owner John Gordon. It had been in the Gordon family for five centuries.

Storey paid £23 million for the 11,512-acre estate, bordering Balmoral and Birkhall, the Scottish home of the King.

Abergeldie, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, is expected to be used for commercial shooting. Planning documents submitted to Aberdeenshire council in July propose new accommodation to be built on the estate "for paying visitors to support the sporting activities on the estate".

The documents state: "For the last 175 years the royal family have leased the sporting rights at Abergeldie but this has now ceased and will be actively run by the new laird. To facilitate the transformation and to effectively run the estate, new facilities will be required."

It is understood there is no animosity between the new owner and the royal family over the removal of the rights.

The Gordon family had owned the estate in Royal Deeside since James III of Scotland bestowed it upon them in 1482. The leasing agreement for the royals' shooting access was given to Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, when he bought Balmoral.

John Gordon increased the leasing fee 25 years ago and the late Queen agreed to pay extra to retain access to the grounds for shooting and hunting.

Storey, 70, was named the most influential man in the UK hospitality industry in 2012 and was made an OBE by Queen Elizabeth in 2017.

The Abergeldie estate includes 34 homes, cottages, lodges and farmhouses. Abergeldie Castle, where it is reported that Gordon's widow, Gillian, still lives, is separate from the estate.

Republican activist takes Met to court over arrest

Charlie Parker

The leader of Britain's largest anti-monarchist movement has begun legal action against the Metropolitan Police after activists were arrested for protesting during the coronation.

Graham Smith, chief executive of Republic, told The Times he was suing the force to "protect future protests" from the abuse of new laws that he says were used to detain demonstrators. He was among scores of activists who were arrested amid "heavy-handed" policing when the King was crowned in May.

Only a handful were charged. Smith, who was detained for 14 hours before being released and faces no further action, is seeking a judicial review of the lawfulness of his arrest, damages and an admission of fault from Scotland Yard. Documents submitted by his lawyers and shared with The Times claim the case is the first test of powers given to police days before the coronation which let them arrest people suspected of "going equipped to lock on".

The High Court can now consider the "correct approach" as to how those powers are exercised, the papers say.

‘Unsustainable’ triple lock could

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor
Oliver Wright, Steven Swinford,
Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

Ministers are considering a £600 million raid on state pension increases this year as they acknowledged the triple lock would eventually have to be dropped.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, is considering using a lower measure of earnings to calculate how much the state pension will rise under the triple lock.

While No10 insisted yesterday that the government was committed to the triple lock, Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, acknowledged that it was “not sustainable” in the long term because of spiralling costs.

The triple lock guarantees that the state pension, presently paying £203.85 a week, will rise by the highest of the inflation rate, earnings, or 2. 5 per cent. After the Office for National Statistics confirmed yesterday that average weekly earnings rose by 8.5 per cent in the three months to July, pensioners seemed to be in line for a rise of more than £17 a week.

However, the Treasury is said to be looking at using a lower figure of 7.8 per cent to strip out the effect of one-off bonuses given to more than a million NHS staff and civil servants over the summer.

One senior source said that excluding bonuses from the triple lock calculation was being seriously considered. “It is something that is naturally being looked at given the wider economic situation,” they said.

“Officials are drawing up policy proposals for ministers but at this point no final decision has been taken.”

After the ONS said these bonuses had “affected” the headline 8.5 per cent rate, another Treasury source said: “We have to look at it, the bonuses have distorted it.”

The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimated that using the lower rate of 7.8 per cent would save £630 million and cost many pensioners about £75 a year.

Stride did not deny this was under consideration, saying there “clearly is a difference if you take into account the non-consolidated elements of pay in recent times, but these are all decisions I have to take with the chancellor”.

He told BBC Radio 4’s *World at One* that he would not “get into the weeds” of the calculation but insisted “the overarching point about the triple lock is that we remain committed to it”. However, after he estimated that the triple lock could cost as much as £45 billion a year by 2050 Stride said: “We’ve known for a long time that in the very long term, it is not sustainable. As to the future and after future general elections and so on, who knows?”

Any change would be deeply contentious. James Sunderland, the Conservative MP for Bracknell, Berkshire, told Times Radio that the policy “should stay, it’s the right thing to do”.

Sir Steve Webb, partner at Lane Clark and Peacock, the business consultants, and pensions minister when the triple lock began, cautioned Hunt against “fiddling the definition”, arguing: “The whole point about the triple lock is that it’s a rule that makes it hard for the Treasury to wriggle out of.”

He agreed that the policy would eventually have to end, but said it was too soon to do so. “You don’t undo 30 years of damage in 13 years,” Webb said.

“You should explicitly have a target that you want the state pension to be, say, a third of the national average wage, and then you keep the triple lock until you get there.”

Dominic Cummings, Boris Johnson’s former chief adviser, said that changing the policy would be electorally disastrous for Rishi Sunak and would alienate “the one part of the Vote Leave coalition we haven’t totally screwed”.

John Palmer, of the Independent Age charity, said: “For the millions of older people living in financial hardship, [the policy] is vital in protecting the value of their often dangerously low income.”

Debate over the policy has revived since Sunak refused to guarantee its long-term future over the weekend, saying he would not “speculate” on the content of the next Conservative manifesto.

Angela Rayner, Labour’s deputy leader, also refused to give categorical assurances on the policy, saying “we’re in a very different place” to 2019.

However, Sarah Olney, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokeswoman, said: “Rishi Sunak must commit now to the triple lock to ensure the state pension rises in line with the cost of living.”

Sunak’s official spokesman said: “We remain committed to the triple lock and we will ensure that the state pension remains sustainable and fair across generations while providing security and dignity in retirement for millions of people.”

Unpicking the triple lock, letters, page 24

Councils sit on £3bn stash

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Councils across England and Wales are sitting on about £3 billion earmarked for new affordable housing, roads and schools, despite the financial pressures facing local government.

Research across more than 170 councils found that, on average, local authorities had £8 million in unspent funds given to them by developers to pay for local infrastructure improvement as a condition of new developments.

Across England and Wales, the figures suggest that councils have about £567 million earmarked for affordable housing, enough to fund the construction of nearly 7,000 new “social” homes.

It also includes £420 million held in unspent education contributions that could cover training costs of 45,000 teachers, and £384 million on unspent highways contributions that could repair more than six million potholes.

Another £334 million is designated for social infrastructure that would pay for 1,900 community games areas.

The money was paid to councils under so-called section 106 agreements by which developers give money to councils to offset the impacts on local areas of large-scale developments.

However, freedom of information requests found that councils in parts of the country with the greatest housing need were among those with the biggest underspends. Kensington and Chelsea council, for example, had £20 million unspent in money earmarked for social housing, while Leeds city council had an underspend of £17 million.

Overall South Gloucestershire council, which was Conservative-run until May, had the biggest underspend at £58.2 million. Surrey council had an underspend of £14.2 million for improvements to schools.



Angela Rayner addressing the TUC conference in Liverpool, where she said that

Johnson ‘looks like a chump’ as peer shuns Tories

Oliver Wright

One of Boris Johnson’s nominees for a peerage has infuriated senior Tories after he decided not to sit on the Conservative benches in the House of Lords.

Dan Rosenfield was one of seven peers proposed by Johnson in his resignation honours list, having worked for the prime minister as his chief of staff in Downing Street.

However, the newly elevated Baron Rosenfield of Muswell Hill has annoyed some of his former colleagues in Westminster by deciding not to take the Tory whip and instead sitting as a non-affiliated peer.

His decision means he does not have to support government legislation in the second chamber or take positions aligned with the Tories.

Allies of Rosenfield, 46, said he had taken the decision because, since leaving Downing Street, he had moved into the private sector and was now employed as a director of Centrica, the energy company that owns British Gas.

They added that Centrica had made clear that his role was incompatible with becoming a Tory-affiliated peer as it required political neutrality.

Others questioned why Rosenfield had felt able to accept a peerage from Johnson but unable to sit on the Tory benches. The chief of staff role is traditionally the most senior politically appointed special adviser in government.

“It is totally outrageous and makes Johnson look like a chump,” said one senior Tory.

“When Centrica employed him they knew he was a Tory, so it’s hard to see why they could have an objection to him sitting on the Conservative benches. This … has really irritated people from cabinet ministers down.”

Sources close to Rosenfield said the Conservatives had been “sympathetic” to his need to balance his obligations to his employer with his role in the Lords.

Rosenfield, who was a former civil servant, took the job as Johnson’s chief of staff in 2021 after the fallout from Dominic Cummings’ resignation and feuding among Downing Street aides.

Despite a brief to bring new professionalism to No 10 he fell out with other senior figures in the building who accused him of trying to reduce their access to the prime minister. He was also accused of overseeing a “macho” and “laddish” management style in Downing Street that particularly alienated women.

He lasted just over a year in the job, resigning last February as part of a final desperate attempt by Johnson to get a grip on Downing Street amid the fallout from the partygate scandal.

Another source said they were not surprised Rosenfield wanted to distance himself from the Conservatives, claiming that he had “never been a proper Tory in the first place … He basically saw it as a good career move but none of us thought he was a Tory.”

Rosenfield’s decision is the latest controversy over Johnson’s resignation honours list. The House of Lords appointments commission blocked several peerages on the grounds that those being proposed were sitting Tory MPs. Johnson, 59, was also criticised for ennobling Charlotte Owen, a relatively junior Downing Street aide who at 30 became the youngest person to receive a life peerage.



Ennobled: Dan Rosenfield

Barge will host fewer migrants to stay safe

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The Home Office has quietly reduced the number of migrants it intends to house on the Bibby Stockholm barge, raising fresh questions about its value for money and safety.

The department had said the barge would accommodate 506 migrants but the maximum has been reduced to 464 in what David Neal, the chief inspector of borders and immigration, branded a “shambles”.

The 8 per cent reduction was disclosed to Neal by the contractor running the barge during an inspection of the vessel on August 25. The figure was

be tweaked to save £600 million

KARL BLACK/ALAMY



Labour would introduce legislation to improve workers' rights within 100 days of winning the next general election

confirmed by Simon Ridley, second permanent secretary at the Home Office.

The reason for the reduction was not disclosed and Neal said he had tried to raise the problem with ministers but had been repeatedly ignored. He has not met a Home Office minister since he saw Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, six months ago.

Neal said: "I do not know if this is something that the minister is aware of. I am unable to inform him of this because he will not see me. I hope to visit the barge for the second time in the next couple of weeks once asylum seekers are embarked."

One Home Office source said the reduced number could be linked to fire safety concerns. The refusal by the fire service to approve emergency fire procedures delayed migrants being moved on to the vessel last month.

The reduction could also have been a response to concerns about plans to house as many as six migrants to a room, the source added.

The Bibby Stockholm normally houses only about 220 people, with one person per cabin.



The Bibby Stockholm normally offers accommodation for about 220 people

The Home Office was forced to remove 39 migrants from the barge just five days after they were transferred on to the vessel on August 7, after tests found traces of legionella bacteria in the water supply.

ITV News has revealed that the migrants were allowed to drink water even after the Home Office was made aware of the bacteria.

Migrants are not expected to be moved back on to the vessel until next month at the earliest because the Home Office is awaiting the results of tests done since a clean-up. The reduction in the Bibby Stockholm's maximum capacity has cast fresh doubt on its value for money. The Home Office has said the cost of housing migrants on the barge will be "significantly cheaper" than the £109 average cost per head of putting them up in hotels, but has refused to say how much it would save.

The Home Office said the Bibby Stockholm's capacity was still 504 but it is unclear whether that includes the support staff.

An assessment by the National Crime Agency found efforts to stop migrants crossing the Channel in small boats will struggle without schemes such as the Rwanda plan to remove and deter them.

Law enforcement sources said that no amount of funding or action will end people smuggler operations, which it described as "effectively like whack-a-mole", where as soon as one is shut down, another takes its place.

A senior law enforcement source said: "No country has ever stopped people trafficking upstream in foreign countries — the Australians have done it but that was with a deportation scheme."

Labour joins rebels to block 'reckless' homebuilding plan

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor
Oliver Wright

Labour will try today to block government plans to water down river pollution rules in a move that threatens to stop thousands of homes being built.

The party is preparing to join Tory rebels in the House of Lords to kill off an attempt by ministers to disapply "nutrient neutrality" regulations that have imposed a moratorium on housebuilding in large parts of the country.

The decision increases the prospect of the government being defeated when peers vote on a government amendment to disapply existing rules designed to protect the health and biodiversity of rivers.

Ministers are already facing a rebellion from their side including from the former minister Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park and Lord Randall of Uxbridge, a former environment adviser to Theresa May. Liberal Democrat and Green peers are also opposed.

The government argues that the legal change is necessary because, without it, up to 100,000 homes in nutrient-neutrality catchment areas cannot be built by 2030, exacerbating the housing crisis.

In an article for the Times's Red Box newsletter, Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader, and Steve Reed, the shadow environment secretary, said that while Britain needed to build new homes they did not accept the only solution was to drop legal environmental protections. "There are far better ways to build the new homes we desperately need than green-lighting water pollution," they said.

They said the plans would allow councils to ignore environmental regulations and authorise new housing development "without mitigation for environmental harm". They said that this would "significantly weaken environmental law and increase river pollution". Instead, they said, the government should allow developers to start building homes that are stuck in the planning pipeline but require them to put in place measures to counteract any environmental harm before those homes were occupied. They said this would allow time for Natural England's nutrient mitigation scheme or other off-site mitigation schemes to bed in while also providing certainty to the housebuilding industry.

Labour's position was attacked by Michael Gove, the housing secretary, who said it undermined Sir Keir Starmer's pledge to "back the builders, not blockers" and increase housing supply.

"Labour claim to be the party of home ownership, yet they plan to vote against new laws that would unlock 100,000 new homes and enhance the environment," Gove said.

Stewart Baseley, executive chairman of the Home Builders Federation, claimed that if the Labour attempt was successful the "impasse" would go on. "Not implementing the solution will do nothing to improve the shocking state of our rivers, polluted by agricultural runoff and the failings of water companies, but will exacerbate our housing crisis still further," he said.

Subscribe to Red Box at thetimes.co.uk/redbox

● Labour will introduce legislation to improve workers' rights within a hundred days if it wins the next election, Rayner promised. She urged unions to "come together" and support the party's election campaign. She told the TUC conference in Liverpool that a Labour government would prevent companies using loopholes to avoid recognising unions in the workplace. She also pledged to introduce a form of collective bargaining that would allow unions to negotiate pay and conditions for entire sectors, such as social care. Rayner called the "new deal" a cast-iron manifesto commitment.

Human rights laws 'stop terrorists being captured'

Shayma Bakht

Human rights laws are jeopardising national security and allowing terrorists to go "uncaptured", Ben Wallace, the former defence secretary, has said.

Wallace said that international treaties such as the European Convention on Human Rights were leaving defence secretaries in a position to choose between killing individuals by drones, or allowing them to continue plotting terror campaigns.

Wallace, who resigned as defence secretary last month, told The Daily Telegraph that it was "lunacy" to continue with the current legislation, which he claimed prevented the capture of terror suspects.

He warned: "When we have a threat to the UK, this lunacy of being unable to render people across borders or arrest people in countries whose police forces are unacceptable means that we are more often than not forced into taking lethal action than actually raiding and detaining."

Wallace claimed that missions that could result in the rendition of a suspect — the extrajudicial transfer from one nation to another — were often blocked, despite international law permitting Britain to take action against an imminent threat in a foreign country.

He said he had "dealt with such cases" while defence secretary. "Yes, I came across plots and thankfully we took action. But did I have the range of options I'd like to? No."

He said the situation left the UK unable to conduct raids such as the one carried out by the United States on Osama bin Laden's compound. "We need some clarity; we need to modernise the legal structures and law, to reflect the transnational nature of terrorism."

News

Blair: After the smoking ban, it's time to intervene on obesity rates

TIMES Health Commission

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent
Georgia Lambert

Sir Tony Blair has urged ministers to tax junk food and impose tougher regulations on the food industry to tackle the obesity crisis.

Speaking to The Times Health Commission, he compared the need for intervention over poor diets to the smoking ban, which he introduced as prime minister in 2007.

Blair said that preventative measures to help people take responsibility for their health and lose weight were essential to creating a sustainable future for the NHS.

"We've got to shift from a service that's treating people when they're ill to a service that is focused on wellbeing, on prevention, on how people live more healthy lives," he said.

"You can't run a modern healthcare system where people are going to live much longer unless they take some responsibility.

"You've got to help them do that. The way of helping them do that, particularly with poor families, is to create the circumstances in which [they can choose healthier food]."

The government has recently delayed a series of policies to tackle junk food, including a ban on advertising before 9pm, and a ban on "buy one, get one free" deals.

Two thirds of adults are obese or overweight. Obesity costs the NHS about £6.5 billion a year and is the second biggest cause of cancer.

Blair said he would expand the sugar tax, introduced in 2018, and introduce other taxes on foods high in fat, salt and sugar, as well as regulating the food industry through measures such as advertising restrictions.



Sir Tony Blair said the NHS would not cope unless people lived healthier lives

He said: "Diet is really important. You're also doing no favours to young people [by not taking action]. If their diet is poor, their health is going to be poor, their lives are going to be poorer. You've got to grip these decisions. You've just got to take the decision and just get on with it and drive it through."

Blair said concerns about the "nanny state" were a "minority view", comparing the debate about anti-obesity policies to that about the ban on smoking in public places, which has been widely judged to be a success.

The former prime minister, who now runs the Tony Blair Institute think tank, was speaking to The Times Health Commission, a year-long inquiry set up to consider the future of health and social care in England.

Blair said the NHS must do more to embrace technology, including giving every patient a digital passport with their medical records, which can be shared between all NHS hospitals and GP surgeries.

Sexual predators will be booted out of NHS, health chief says

Kat Lay Health Editor
Rachel Sylvester

Sexual predators will face consequences, the head of the NHS has pledged in response to a report which revealed that many female surgeons had been assaulted.

Regulators and watchdogs have told perpetrators that they will take a "zero-tolerance" approach. Research published in the British Journal of Surgery found widespread misconduct and a misogynistic culture that posed risks to patient safety.

Amanda Pritchard, chief executive of NHS England, said the revelation that a third of female NHS surgeons had been sexually assaulted by a colleague over the past five years was "truly horrendous". She added: "It is appalling to think that women can face this behaviour when they come to work." Pritchard said action was being taken to ensure the NHS was safe for all, including through a new sexual safety charter.

Steve Brine, chairman of the health committee, said MPs would examine the problem. Charlie Massey, chief executive of the General Medical Council, said the report had shown that misogyny and sexism were "allowed to take root in some workplaces". He added that any doctor who had committed a crime should be investigated by police.

Letters, page 24

Quintagram® No 1732

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Of a point of concentration (5)
_ _ _ _ _

2 Once every seven days (6)
_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Sideward (7)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Long jumper or sprinter, eg (7)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Science of living things (7)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	B	C	E	E
E	E	E	F	G	H	I	K
L	L	L	L	L	L	O	O
O	R	T	T	T	W	Y	Y

Solutions see T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

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Representative Example	Duration of Device Plan	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total amount payable for device	Interest rate (fixed)	Representative APR	Cash price (to buy outright)	Airtime Plan until March 2024	Airtime Plan April 2024 - March 2025	Airtime Plan April 2025 - March 2026
Google Pixel 7 Pro 265GB	36 months	£30	£19.64	£707	£737	0%	0%	£737	£19.99	£19.99 + RPI% announced in Feb 2024 = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2025

***Each year your Airtime Plan will be increased by the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation announced in February plus 3.9%. If RPI is negative, we'll only apply the 3.9%. You'll see this increase on your April 2024 bill onwards. See o2.co.uk/prices.** £19.64 Device Plan for 36 months and £19.99 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. £500 saving consists of £212 discount applied to Device Planand further £288 saving achieved by £8 per month discount on the 1GB, 5GB, 25GB, & 30GB Airtime Plans over 36 months. Offer ends 20 September 2023. O2 Switch Up cannot be used with the first 90 days from purchase. New & upgrading O2 customers (not previously on O2 Switch Up as part of a Plus Plan) who purchase a Plus Plan tariff directly from O2 only. The Bolt On is included within any Plus Plan. It will be removed automatically if your existing device plan is paid in full, or if you transfer your existing tariff from a Plus Plan to a Custom Plan. Eligible customers may swap their existing handset device (tablets etc are excluded) during the eligible period of their contract, subject to satisfying our terms & conditions. If approved, we will keep your device & pay off your existing contract before you get your new device. If refused, you will only be able to upgrade via our standard methods & early upgrade charges may apply. All requests to swap must be processed via one of our retail stores, unless we agree otherwise. Customers may only take out a new Custom Plan or Plus Plan following a successful device swap. Custom Plans & Plus Plans are subject to availability, status, credit checks & payment by direct debit. New contract price may be higher than existing depending on plans chosen. Customers will not be eligible to redeem any O2 Recycle offers when using O2 Switch Up. This Bolt On is also subject to your standard terms & conditions of service & is only for your personal non-commercial use. For full terms, see: https://www.o2.co.uk/termsandconditions/mobile/o2-switch-up.

New law to end Troubles prosecutions faces immediate challenges

Sean O'Neill

A controversial new law that has been designed to end prosecutions linked to the Troubles in Northern Ireland will face legal challenges as soon as it is passed.

Survivors of terrorist attacks and families of people killed during the Troubles have said the law "snatches away" their last chance of securing justice in the courts. The legacy bill passed its final stages in the Commons last week as MPs rejected amendments put forward by peers. It is expected to receive royal assent this month.

The legislation signals an end to criminal prosecutions for crimes from the Troubles and will halt inquests and civil claims from the same period.

The measure emerged from efforts to end cases against military veterans but has generated fierce opposition from victims' groups and the province's political parties. More than 1,000 deaths during the period remain unsolved.

Leo Varadkar, the Irish prime minister, said that the legislation was the "wrong way to go about dealing with legacy issues". His government is considering a case against the UK in the European Court of Human Rights.

Lawyers for three families are set to lodge a judicial review claim in the high court alleging the government is breaching their human rights by removing their right to the investigation and prosecution of unsolved crimes.

The challenge will focus on the cases of John McEvoy, who survived a terrorist attack on a pub in 1992, Lynda McManus, whose father James was murdered the same year in Belfast, and Brigid Hughes, whose husband was killed when the SAS ambushed an IRA unit in Co Armagh in 1987.

Chris Heaton-Harris, the Northern Ireland secretary, told MPs last week: "We must be honest about what we can realistically deliver for people in circumstances where the prospects of achieving justice in the traditional sense are so vanishingly small." Amnesty International said the new law would let people "get away with murder".

Stage set for drama of the dresses that made Chanel

Exhibition Hannah Rogers

Gabrielle Chanel: Fashion Manifesto
V&A
★★★★☆

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL



Inspired displays at the show, which opens on Saturday, include 62 of the famous Chanel tweed suits, stacked floor to ceiling

When American Vogue published an illustration of Coco Chanel's delicate black lace and crepe de chine dress in October 1926, it likened the item to the most ubiquitous car in America: a Ford Model T. This was not because it was glamorous, but because it was useful: here, the magazine predicted, was "the frock that all the world would wear".

That little black dress, now on display at the V&A's new exhibition on the secretive, unknowable designer, is *the* little black dress, the original LBD that provided the blueprint for many found in modern wardrobes.

And those who think that a display cabinet full of black frocks might sound dull — not least compared with the regal ballgowns of Dior's 2019 exhibition at the same museum or the punk tartan of its record-breaking *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* — will feel differently when they reach the end of *Gabrielle Chanel: Fashion Manifesto*. Chanel's museum pieces are wearable, yes, but beautiful too.

Take for example two silk, sequin and tulle ballgowns from 1929. Even Oriole Cullen, the museum's curator of fashion and textiles, was surprised at how lightweight they are.

Chanel's focus was always on how clothes should feel. Her glamorous but practical designs still look modern — a relaxed cut floral midi dress from 1930 and a pair of metallic party pyjamas from 1965 in particular.

The quilted lambskin handbags and the sensible two-tone slingbacks on display are the same as those sold in Chanel shops now. As for those famous Chanel tweed suits, 62 of them get stacked floor to ceiling.

There are many such eye-widening displays; almost every room feels like an event.

What drama some of the clothes might lack is provided by how they are presented. Cullen said she took inspiration for the displays from La Pausa, Chanel's French Riviera hideaway, as well as the light-reflecting bottle of the brand's hit perfume Chanel No 5 and the designer's elegant apartment on Rue Cambon in Paris.

Given that Chanel's career spanned 60 years, there is a lot of ground to cover. She was an evasive creature too — she often lied, particularly about her childhood poverty, because the truth simply did not suit her. Yet in this exhibition her life and work are deftly covered. It cautiously circles the contested wartime era and Chanel's links to both the French Resistance and Hans Günther von Dincklage, the German spy. Visitors are left to make up their own minds as to where her sympathies lay.

Though the exhibition comes to the V&A from Paris's Palais Galliera, it has 100 extra pieces and explores Chanel's famous Anglophilia, from her relationship with the Duke of Westminster to the label's long-standing use of Linton Tweeds, still based in Carlisle.

That partnership began in the 1920s when the designer styled her pieces with red lipstick and pearls. What better proof of the timelessness of her work than that all of them look up-to-date — whether behind glass or not.

The exhibition runs from September 16, vam.ac.uk

GB News host quits Royal Society over vaccine views

Seren Hughes

Neil Oliver, the historical and archaeological documentary presenter turned GB News broadcaster, has quit the prestigious Royal Society of Edinburgh amid concerns that his views on climate change and vaccines were at odds with the society's work.

Oliver, 56, was elected to the RSE in 2020 to contribute in areas of "public engagement" and began appearing on GB News in 2021. He did not take part in any RSE business during his time as a fellow, according to the society.

An RSE spokesman said: "In discussion with Mr Oliver, it was clear he understood that his current views on various matters, widely aired on television, put him at odds with scientific and broader academic learning within the society. Following discussions, he offered to resign his association with the RSE with immediate effect."

Oliver was invited by a senior fellow to discuss the concerns, understood to be that his scepticism of man-made climate change and the effectiveness of vaccines did not align with the society's objective to spread scientific knowledge. A few emails were exchanged and in early August he offered to resign.

The RSE was established in 1783 for "the advancement of learning and useful knowledge". The expertise of its fellows, across science, technology, the arts, social science and public service, contributes to the "social and economic wellbeing of Scotland, its people and the nation's wider contribution to the global community".



Neil Oliver claims there is no climate crisis and is against Covid vaccines

Oliver made his name presenting archaeological and historical documentary series on the BBC, including *A History of Scotland*, *Vikings* and *Coast*. He was appointed president of the National Trust for Scotland in 2017 and held the role for three years. Today, he shares his views on a GB News show and a personal YouTube channel. He speaks against climate change and green policies, the Covid vaccine and seems to be against politicians across the political spectrum.

He has tweeted several times about a revolution. In May, he retweeted an apparently antisemitic cartoon showing, among others, Bill Gates, Jeffrey Epstein and Anthony Fauci with illuminati and swastika signs.

He regularly denies that there is a climate crisis. Earlier this year he wrote on Twitter/X: "There is no climate crisis. The alleged climate crisis is the most expensive and devastating lie of all time."

He has claimed that lockdown measures were "the biggest mistake in world history" and said that he would not allow his children to be vaccinated but rather "cheerfully risk catching Covid".

Oliver and the RSE were approached for comment.

Taking the long view on Covid, Daniel Finkelstein, page 21

Rubiales: Kiss outcry was cultural misunderstanding

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Luis Rubiales has claimed cultural misunderstandings about Latin people led to the furore over him kissing Spain's Women's World Cup winner Jenni Hermoso on the lips — and that he would have done the same to a male player.

Rubiales announced on Sunday that he was resigning as president of the Spanish football federation. Hermoso has lodged a criminal complaint against him, saying that she had not consented to the kiss.

In an interview with *Piers Morgan Uncensored* on Talk TV, Rubiales also said that he had apologised to the Queen of Spain after he was pictured holding his crotch and making a gesture while standing next to her and her 16-year-old daughter during the 1-0 win over England. He said: "For this I am truly ashamed, more from an internal perspective than anything else. There are no excuses."

Despite an outcry in Spain and internationally about his actions after the final in Sydney last month, the 46-year-old continued to protest his innocence.

Asked why he was so tactile with the players, Rubiales said: "All the medal celebrations with guys and girls. All those celebrations are mutual, they are normal. A couple of minutes before, they lifted me up.

"I think Latin people, and it's a cultural question, have that tactile [approach], it's pretty normal in a Latin world between guys and girls."

Asked if he would have acted in the same manner had it been Spain's men's team on the medal podium, Rubiales added: "No doubt about it, 100 per cent … when I was a player, there were many moments where we avoided relegation or we got promotion, where we have given what we call pecks on the lips."

Rubiales had defied calls to step down despite legal complaints, dozens of Spanish players refusing to play and a Fifa charge for misconduct.

Rubiales continued to claim that Hermoso had consented to the kiss and that his intentions were "noble, enthusiastic, 100 per cent non-sexual". "I have said it from the beginning, I made a mistake, and I apologised in a sincere manner," he said. "I was very happy, I felt like another player. But being the president of the association, I have apologised unreservedly; that is not the actions of the president of the association."

@SHEILALWEIR



The Vanguard class submarine at Faslane naval base on the Clyde after a gruelling tour thought to have lasted more than six months

Nuclear sub resurfaces after record spell at sea

A British nuclear submarine has set a record for the longest patrol at sea but safety fears are growing over the Royal Navy's ageing fleet (George Grylls writes).

The Vanguard-class boat returned to the Faslane naval base in Scotland on Monday encrusted with barnacles and covered in slime after a gruelling tour understood to have lasted more than six months. Experts say that long patrols put great strain on the submarines and take a psychological toll on their crews.

The UK has four Vanguard-class boats armed with Trident missiles carrying nuclear warheads. At least one sub is on patrol at all times to maintain a continuous at-sea deterrent. However, the fleet has been reduced to two, HMS Vigilant and HMS Vengeance, owing to repair works on the other two. Vanguard will resume patrols next year after seven years of maintenance work at Devonport. Victorious is also to undergo a refit.

The Vanguard submarines were originally designed to last 25 years but they will be almost 40 years old by the time they are replaced by the Dreadnought class early in the next decade.

Disposable vapes to be banned within weeks

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Disposable vapes and those with flavours designed to appeal to children will be banned under a government crackdown due within weeks.

Rishi Sunak is believed to be putting the finishing touches to a package designed to restrict teenagers' access to highly addictive products, having criticised the "ridiculous" marketing of vapes to children. The measures could be published as soon as next week.

Vaping is considered much less harmful than smoking cigarettes because it delivers a nicotine hit without the tobacco. Ministers want adult smokers to switch without children taking up the habit. Restrictions on advertising featuring cartoons or exotic flavourings are likely but ministers may go further amid mounting evidence of young people taking up vaping and political support for tougher rules.

A ban on single-use vapes is due to be included in a consultation paper, with ministers said to be in favour. A prohibition on flavourings that appear targeted at children is also likely after increasing concern about products designed to taste like ice cream and candyfloss.

Ministers are working out how to define disposable vapes and flavourings designed to appeal to children, and final decisions have not been made. A ban on vape companies sponsoring sports teams is also being looked at but compulsory licencing for retailers selling vapes is considered less likely.

The charity Material Focus estimates that five million disposable vapes are thrown away every week, four times higher than last year, with only a fraction of them recycled.

Caroline Johnson, a Conservative MP and paediatrician who has pushed for action, said: "We need a ban on disposables because they are so attractive to youngsters, enticing many children into vaping. They are also very difficult to recycle and pose a hazard to the environment and wildlife."

She added: "We need to act as quickly as possible because more and more children are becoming addicted … every day. Teachers and doctors report significant adverse effects."

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Local Government Association have called for a ban on disposable vapes but other campaigners warn that this would lead to a black market of unregulated products.

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Ash, the anti-smoking charity, said: "The government must act to address the rapid growth in youth vaping but a ban on disposables is risky, as without far greater resources on enforcement it could turn the flood of illegal vapes into a tsunami. Ash believes a better option is a tax on disposable vapes to stop them being sold at pocket-money prices."

She said legislation was needed "to make vapes less attractive and less visible to children" but added: "Prohibiting vapes from being branded like sweets and called sweet names is the priority. Banning the flavours themselves could be counterproductive as flavours play a major role in helping adult smokers quit." John Dunne of the UK Vaping Industry Association said: "A ban is not the answer. Some 220 people die from smoking every day. Disposables have proved to be highly effective in helping smokers quit their habits due to their ease of use, accessibility and low entry price points."

The Department of Health said: "We are concerned about the rise in youth vaping and the environmental impacts of disposable vapes. That is why we launched a call for evidence to identify opportunities to reduce the number of children accessing and using vaping products — and explore where the government can go further."

Ploys to lure the young are indefensible, leading article, page 25

9 months

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Bills gobble up 70% of the average pay packet

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Seventy per cent of a typical householder's monthly income is committed to bills and other household expenditure as soon as their pay arrives.

A Moneysupermarket report found that the average adult in Britain spent £48.47 per day on living costs and that they paid up to 31 separate bills.

London has long been the most expensive place to live in Britain, but the report reveals that Manchester now had the highest cost of living relative to income at £59.50 a day.

That was £11 higher than the national average and £21.50 more than Newcastle, which had the lowest cost of living.

Moneysupermarket, one of Britain's biggest price comparison sites, used the report to launch its household money index, an annual barometer of daily money habits.

It found that those living in Manchester had typically committed 76 per cent of their £28,158 average income after tax each month.

Young people had the highest daily outlay at £59.30 per day, equivalent to 77 per cent of their average monthly income. The over-55s had committed spending of £34.74 per day, equating to 61 per cent of their income, including pensions.

Southampton had the biggest gap between daily cost and income, meaning that its residents had the most disposable income with 63 per cent committed each month.

The report also looked at the changes to household bills since Moneysupermarket was launched 30 years ago, with costs rising by the equivalent of £570 per month across electricity, gas, rent and mortgage payments.

Compared with last year, people were getting 13 per cent more haircuts and 32 per cent more beauty treatments.



Locals named the girl who died on Sunday after being found in a Hampshire village pond as Annabelle Mackey, the daughter of Peter and Alice Mackey. Police are treating her death as murder and have arrested a woman in her forties

Two-year-old girl is named as victim of pond murder

David Brown

A two-year-old girl who died after being found in a village pond and whose death is being treated as murder was named locally as Annabelle Mackey.

A woman in her forties has been arrested and the family home is being treated as a crime scene.

Annabelle's parents were named by neighbours as Peter and Alice Mackey, who live in a £600,000 semi-detached house in the Hampshire village of Kingsley. Their daughter was found unresponsive in the pond half a mile away at about 5pm on Sunday after being reported as missing from home.

A villager said that an adult was heard shouting, "Help me! Help me!" at the pond. Annabelle was seen being put into an ambulance covered in blankets.

A neighbour added: "The first we knew of it was when the police car pulled up. Within 20 minutes of the first car pulling up, this place was flooded with vans and police. The whole place was cordoned off.

"At Halloween we get a lot of decorations around the house for our little one and Annabelle used to come in and look at the decorations. She was gorgeous — she was a beautiful little girl.

"We used to regularly see Alice and Annabelle walking around here. Alice would always be holding her hand and quite often they'd walk up the common because it's a beautiful place to walk.

"At the moment there's a little bit of panic on our side, not knowing who that [arrested] person is."

Alice Mackey is understood to be a teacher who studied at Oxford Brookes University and the University of Roehampton in south London. She married Peter in 2015.

Forensic science officers were seen entering the family home and police stood guard outside yesterday.

EU charger rules make Apple crumble

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Apple has finally bowed to a new EU law and changed its iPhone to a generic charging system but left questions remaining about the environmental impact of the update.

To applause from the audience in the Steve Jobs Theater in Cupertino, California, the company said that the iPhone 15 would adopt the USB-C charging system worldwide.

The move was effectively forced on the company by a Brussels edict that sought to reduce the different number of chargers to combat waste and cut costs for consumers. At one stage there were 33 different charging systems in operation.

The iPhone, AirPods Pro and wired EarPods will have the new USB-C port, bringing them into line with new iPads and Macs and all Android phones.

Apple will initially provide a one-metre USB-C cable in the box of new devices, but not a power adapter. The company suggested a third-party company may provide adapters in future.

Campaigners and experts had hoped that the company would provide some kind of trade-in programme for the more than 1 billion existing "lightning" cables, or include converters from lightning to USB-C, as it does with some iPads. Environmental groups say there is precious copper in the cables that can be recycled. Last night a new lightning to USB-C converter appeared on the Apple store, priced at £29.



Tim Cook, the boss of Apple, with the iPhone 15 at its launch in California

Apple had resisted the new EU law and one of its objections was the short-term waste it would cause. A large section of the Apple launch yesterday focused on the company's environmental goals, which include making every product carbon neutral by 2030.

Francisco Jeronimo, vice-president of data and analytics at IDC Europe, said: "I think it's a huge missed opportunity for them to complement the [environmental] story with actions to collect those cables, because that will be a huge, huge problem in the future as people start replacing their iPhones."

Ed Hoppitt, a senior director at the cloud computing firm VMware, said: "While the shift [to USB-C] will no doubt be beneficial for consumers in the long run as it claims to save up to £213 million a year on unnecessary charger purchases, there is a big short-term issue staring us in the face — mountains and mountains of e-waste.

"If the technology industry fails to take affirmative action and improve the means of disposal of this end-of-life equipment, then we'll see a sharp increase in the amount of lightning port-based technology being sent to landfill over the next few years."

The iPhone 15 will cost £799 and the Plus £899, while the 15 Pro will remain at £999, but the Pro Max will start at £1,199. They can be ordered from this Friday and will be available from September 22.

The new Apple Watch Series 9 starts at £399, and Apple Watch SE starts at £219. They can be ordered now and will be available from September 22.

France puts iPhone 12 on hold over radiation levels

Adam Sage Paris

Apple has been told to stop selling its iPhone 12 smartphones in France after tests found that the model produced radiation levels above the EU safety threshold.

The American company has 15 days to implement a software update that French authorities say will reduce the phone's radiation to acceptable levels or the government will recall all the iPhone 12s sold in France since their launch in 2020.

Jean-Noël Barrot, the digital and telecommunications minister, said he would pass the results to other EU countries, which could follow suit in banning the phone.

EU law sets ceilings for the Specific Absorption Rate (Sar) which measures the amount of energy absorbed by the body when exposed to radiofrequency electromagnetic waves from telephones and other appliances. The limit is 2 watts per kilogram when the phone is held next to the ear or torso and 4w/kg when carried. Barrot said the French National Frequency Agency had recently carried out tests on the iPhone 12, and found that its Sar when carried was 5.7w/kg.

Barrot played down fears that the iPhone 12's radiation levels were a cancer risk. He said the EU threshold was "ten times lower than the level which, according to scientific studies, can have consequences for users". However, he suggested Apple would be ill advised to ignore the warning.

Barrot said Apple was not the first company to face such a ban in France. The watchdog has banned the sale of 42 smartphones for excess radiation since 2017. In six instances, there was also a recall of phones that had been sold.

These seem to have involved little known models, such as the Hapi 30 marketed by Orange, the French telecommunications giant, or the Clap 20+ sold by Boulanger, an electronic appliance chain that is also French.

It is the first time that a company as well known as Apple has had a ban.



BRING ON THE NIGHT

This is our Chromalight display. Unveiled in 2008, it offers optimal and long-lasting legibility in the darkest of surroundings thanks to a luminescent substance developed by Rolex and patented. White under the light of day, it glows blue in darkness and makes it possible to read the time in all lighting conditions. Composed of aluminium, strontium, dysprosium and europium, it has the ability to store ambient light's energy only to better release it, gradually, whenever it may wane. First obtained in powder form, it is then heated to a very high temperature and mixed with a resin, before being applied manually to the hands and indexes. Its characteristic blue hue is a most reliable ally to repel the reach of darkness. A most precious glow in even the darkest of nights.

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BBC row over guests invited to hand back African antique

Poppy Koronka

The *Antiques Roadshow* has come under fire after an expert on the BBC programme asked the descendants of a former governor of British Somaliland whether they would return a gift he had been given by an Ethiopian emperor.

The descendants of Sir Harold Kittermaster appeared on the programme on Sunday to have a golden robe and personal letter, given by the emperor Haile Selassie to their ancestor, valued.

Ronnie Archer-Morgan, an expert in ethnic, tribal and folk art, valued the robe in the region of £4,000 to £5,000. He then asked the two granddaughters of Kittermaster whether they would consider repatriating the garment, which was a gift, to Ethiopia.

"So if there's a call for these things to be repatriated, would you be happy to do that?" he said. The women smiled and nodded in response, replied "absolutely" and said that they were going to "have a think" about what to do with the artefact.



Ronnie Archer-Morgan discussed the golden robe on the Antiques Roadshow

Sunday night's instalment of the programme had the theme of "items that provide a fresh insight into Britain's role in Africa in the early 20th century and the contradictions and complexities of colonialism", according to Fiona Bruce, the presenter.

Ethiopia has not made a request for historic gifts to be returned.

Professor David Abulafia, a leading historian at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, said that the discussion was "senseless" in light of the historical context. "Even for those who believe in returning objects, this simply doesn't qualify because it was an open gift," Abulafia told The Daily Telegraph. "It shows how people get caught up in a fashionable idea and they don't actually think through the fundamental principles. In this case, we're dealing with a gift — and to whom should it go?

"Ethiopia — well, the Empire — has been dissolved so you have a revolutionary government and they don't qualify, while Somaliland is an anomalous state which has no international recognition, so where on Earth would one send it?

"Some of these completely unhistorical demands for restitution are extraordinary, it felt like it was the answer they were expected to give."

Selassie, who gave the gift to Kittermaster, served as emperor of Ethiopia between 1930 and 1974. He knew Kittermaster personally when he was the governor of Malawi, which was then called Nyasaland.

He was Ethiopia's final emperor and served until he was overthrown by Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Marxist dictator, in 1974.

Selassie traced his lineage back to Menelik I, who was thought to be the child of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. He was born as Lij Tafari Makonnen in 1892, in a mud hut.

Then known as Tafari, as a young progressive he led Ethiopia to the League of Nations in 1923 and by 1928 he had declared himself king — and was made emperor two years later.

On his adoption of the title, he took the name Haile Selassie, which means "Might of the Trinity".

Selassie was exiled during the Second World War after leading the resistance to the Italian invasion. During this time, he lived in Wimbledon in 1936. He then lived in Fairfield House in Bath from 1936 to 1941, when he returned to his country.

Last year, his items went on display in Fairfield House, including his walking stick, which he used on his daily stroll through the city.

A spokesman for the BBC said: "Where we have relevant details about an item, experts explore the wider questions of provenance in relation to a variety of contexts, including the history of the British Empire, which in this instance was around Britain's role in Africa in the early 20th century."



Arthur Brand with the Van Gogh masterpiece Lentetuin, which was returned — in an Ikea bag — after being stolen three years ago

The Indiana Jones of art and the Van Gogh crusade

After two weeks of cloak-and-dagger negotiations with the underworld over a stolen Van Gogh painting there was a knock on the door at the Amsterdam home of Arthur Brand (Bruno Waterfield writes).

Bundled inside an Ikea bag was the picture *Lentetuin*, or *Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring*, worth €6 million and stolen three years ago from a Dutch museum in a smash-and-grab heist.

The 1884 work was handed to Brand, 53, an art sleuth nicknamed "Indiana Jones" because of his adventures.

"The last few weeks have been very nerve-racking. I didn't sleep a wink until it turned up on Monday afternoon," he said. Brand has become internationally renowned for tracking down stolen or missing masterpieces ranging from ancient antiquities to Hitler's favourite bronze sculptures.

After spending years pursuing the Van Gogh painting, which a drugs baron had tried to exchange in return for a lighter jail sentence, Brand received a text on August 29 from "a man who had nothing to do with the theft" who was standing across the room at a drinks party.

"I have to protect his identity. It was done in good co-ordination with the police. We were just waiting for someone to come forward. He told me, 'I can get you the *Lentetuin* back. It has become a headache for everybody'," Brand said. "He rang my doorbell with the work bubble-wrapped inside an Ikea bag."

Waiting in a bar around the corner was Andreas Blühm, director of the Groninger Museum, which owns the painting. "Blühm came by to take a look. It was unmistakably *Lentetuin*. We had tears in our eyes and, of course, we raised a glass," Brand said. "It was one of the most beautiful moments of my life."

The painting was stolen on March 30, 2020, while on loan to the Singer Laren museum near Amsterdam during a Covid lockdown.

A man entered the museum at night, smashed glass doors with a sledgehammer and escaped with the painting under his arm.

Less than three months later, "proof of life" photographs of the painting emerged as it was touted for sale "in mafia circles" to use as a bargaining chip for more lenient jail sentences.

It was photographed alongside the book *Meesterdief* (Master Thief), the story of Octave "Okkie" Durham, the criminal responsible for a notorious robbery at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in 2002.

Two works stolen in that raid were recovered in 2016 when an Italian mafia boss linked to the Camorra Amato Pagano clan used them as collateral to trade for a more lenient sentence.

Six months later another work, *Two Laughing Boys* by Frans Hals, was stolen. The painting, valued at €15 million, is still missing.

Nils M, 60, a French-born art robber and career criminal, was sentenced to eight years in prison for the thefts in July last year after passing the Van Gogh on to the associates of a drug gang in 2021.

According to intercepted messages, Peter Roy K, 39, sentenced to 12 years in prison for cocaine smuggling, tried to use the Van Gogh to secure a shorter jail term.

"He was told, 'No deal'," said Brand. "The Van Gogh simply got too hot."

Blühm was overjoyed to have the painting back. "In recent years I thought, 'Will I live to see it?'" he told De Telegraaf newspaper, which broke the story.

"Fortunately, I was only informed shortly before the return. That was better for the nerves. I immediately saw that the painting is the real one. It is slightly damaged, but repairable."

And the Academy awards go to ... ITV

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The Oscars are returning to terrestrial TV for the first time in 20 years after ITV agreed a multi-year deal.

The Academy awards, at the Dolby Theatre in Ovation Hollywood, will be broadcast live on ITV1 and its ITVX streaming service over six hours from about 11pm on March 10 when the stars start to arrive on the red carpet.

ITV will also be able to use clips of the awards across its news shows and social media channels.

The broadcaster reached a deal with Disney after Sky opted against renewing its agreement, which had run since 2004. The pay-for-TV broadcaster previously aired the event across a number of its channels including Sky Cinema, Sky Arts and Sky News. The BBC last showed the Oscars in 2003.

Last year about 60,000 viewers watched Will Smith slap the host Chris Rock after he made jokes about his wife Jada Pinkett Smith. This slipped to 35,000 for this year's less controversial event, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel in which *Everything Everywhere All at Once* won a number of gongs including best picture, alongside success for *All Quiet On The Western Front*.

The decline, which is thought to have prompted Sky's decision to end its deal, has been mirrored in the United States where it recorded its third lowest ratings ever earlier this year, despite a slight increase to 18.7 million viewers.

ITV has opted to broadcast the ceremony as a way to promote ITVX, which recently passed 2 billion streams and has a collection of 250 films — *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* is the most-watched title. The service is expected to feature a range of Oscar-related content in the build-up.

Bill Kramer, chief executive of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, said: "The Oscars is a celebration of global cinema, recognising films and film artists from around the world. ITV's support of our international awards show is a testament to its deep devotion to the movies."

Driver in wedding tragedy 'sped up' after fatal impact

Mark Lister

A hotel owner who killed the mother of a bride before her daughter's wedding "sped up" after knocking her over on a pedestrian crossing, a court has heard.

Judith Wadsworth, a 66-year-old grandmother, died under the wheels of Nicholas Bannister's Range Rover as she fetched boxes from the car park of the Coniston Hotel, in the Yorkshire Dales, before the ceremony.

Bannister, 64, drove on for 20 metres after hitting her, then asked: "What was that?" as he came to a halt. Guests and relatives left the reception area moments later after being made aware of the "terrible situation", the jury was told. Bannister said: "I didn't see her, I didn't see her" after the incident on February 7, 2020.

"I do believe he didn't know he had hit anybody," Natasha Hobson-Shaw, who worked at the hotel's 4x4 centre, told the jury at Bradford crown court. "He drove off. His speed did increase, unfortunately."

Bannister denies causing the death of Wadsworth by driving without due care and attention. The trial continues.

Face facts: hormones make us see things

In 1994, a woman in Florida received what she took to be a religious message via a grilled cheese sandwich (Rhys Blakely writes). As she gazed at its toasted surface, a familiar figure peered back.

"I saw a face looking up at me, it was the Virgin Mary," she said. "I was in shock."

The rest of the world had cause to be surprised when she sold the snack on eBay for $28,000.

The phenomenon of people seeing significant patterns, often faces, in inanimate objects is called pareidolia. Scientists believe that it is deeply wired into the human brain and now a study has hinted that it plays a special role in parenthood, by helping new mothers to forge social bonds.

"We all see faces in the clouds and burnt pieces of toast, but we also know that some illusory faces are very obvious and others are more difficult to see," said Dr Jess Taubert, of the University of Queensland, who led the research. "Some people see these illusory faces in inanimate objects much more easily than other people."

Taubert and her colleagues compared two groups of women — 84 of whom were pregnant and 79 of whom had recently had a child.

They were shown 256 images of inanimate objects and asked to score how easy it was to see a face in the pictures, on a scale from zero ("I don't see a face") to ten ("I definitely see a face").

New mothers scored the pictures almost two points higher, on average, than the pregnant women.

"The results were clear: women in the postpartum group gave reliably higher scores to examples of face pareidolia than women in the pregnancy group, indicating that it was easier for them to see illusory faces," Taubert said.

"These findings provide the first indication that our susceptibility to face pareidolia might vary across different stages of life."

Being more alive to faces may help new mothers make social bonds with their baby and other adults who may help raise the child.

Taubert and her team, whose results have been published in the journal Biology Letters, suspect that the increase in pareidolia is linked to an increase in levels of oxytocin, which is sometimes known as the "love hormone".

Oxytocin concentrations rise in mothers after childbirth. In turn, this may have an impact on a part of the brain known as the amygdala, which is involved in formulating emotional responses. "Other studies have shown that higher levels of oxytocin are correlated with increased amygdala responses," Taubert said.

"Therefore, my intuition is that the amygdala plays a role in our sensitivity to faces and face-like patterns."

She believes that more work is now needed to unravel how hormones, including oxytocin, affect how humans function in society.

"It is commonly assumed that the neural mechanisms underlying our social intelligence are steadfast and robust, but changes in these processes could have a profound impact on our social wellbeing and mental health," she said.

"We have a very poor understanding of how the brain changes and adapts to the demands of parenthood."



Scientists found some people, especially women after childbirth, are more prone to seeing faces in everyday objects — from a happy house to a lugubrious aubergine to a miffed mop

Life coaches to help staff stay at work

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Life coaches will help the long-term sick join social clubs and get debt advice even once they have a job under plans to lower record numbers on disability benefits.

Tens of thousands of claimants will be matched with personal advisers in a scheme that begins today. New figures show a record 2.6 million people are not working because of illness, up by 500,000 since the pandemic.

Writing in The Times's Red Box newsletter, the work and pensions secretary Mel Stride said "a workforce weakened by the pandemic is struggling with ill health, both physical and mental" and said many face people "insurmountable barriers" to getting a job.

Last week Stride set out plans to get hundreds of thousands of people with mobility and mental health problems to look for work they can do from home.

Under a "stick and carrot" back-to-work drive, he is now launching a "universal support" service to give the long-term sick dedicated advisers to help with personal problems such as debt and addiction. Previous efforts have focused on giving people help with writing CVs and preparing for interviews.

The scheme, first announced in the budget, is intended to reach 25,000 people in a year and 50,000 by 2025.

Sign up at thetimes.co.uk/redbox

Dementia danger rises if you sit for over 10 hours

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Sitting down for more than ten hours a day increases the risk of dementia even with regular breaks to stand up and walk around, research shows.

Scientists looked at 50,000 adults older than 60 in the UK, measuring the time spent on activities such as driving, watching TV or working at a laptop.

They found that the risk of dementia increased significantly the longer people sat down each day beyond a ten-hour threshold. People who sat for 15 hours a day were three times more likely to get dementia than those who sat for less than ten.

It did not matter whether the ten hours were consecutive or spread out and interspersed with activity.

The researchers said that trying to offset a sedentary lifestyle by regularly standing up and taking breaks could not undo the negative impact.

Professor David Raichlen of the University of Southern California, lead author of the study, said: "Many of us are familiar with the common advice to break up long periods of sitting by getting up every 30 minutes or so to stand or walk around. We wanted to see if those types of patterns are associated with dementia risk.

"We found that once you take into account the total time spent sedentary, the length of individual sedentary periods didn't really matter."

Raichlen said that office workers who were stuck at a computer from 9am to 5pm should be reassured that it was not necessarily harmful as long as they did not also spend two hours in the evening sitting in front of the television.

The study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (Jama), used data from 50,000 adults over 60 in the UK Biobank. They wore Fitbit-style devices to measure their movements, and were followed for an average of six years. In this period, 414 were given diagnoses of dementia.

The average person spent about 9.5 hours per day sitting down. Compared with this, those who sat for ten hours faced an 8 per cent increased risk, and sitting for 12 hours was linked to an increased risk of 63 per cent. Those who sat for at least 15 hours, almost all their waking hours, were three times more likely to get dementia.

Professor Gene Alexander, a co-author of the study, said: "The risk begins to rapidly increase after ten hours spent sedentary each day, regardless of how the sedentary time was accumulated. This suggests that it is the total time spent sedentary that drove the relationship between sedentary behaviour and dementia risk, but importantly lower levels of sedentary behaviour, up to around ten hours, were not associated with increased risk."

The study builds upon research showing the importance of staying active to stave off dementia. Four in ten dementia cases could be prevented through lifestyle changes including stopping smoking, losing weight and drinking less alcohol.

About 900,000 people have dementia in the UK, projected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040 as the population ages.

A separate study, also published in Jama, has highlighted the importance of treating high blood pressure in older adults to help prevent dementia. Hypertension has been shown to increase the risk of dementia by 60 per cent.

Researchers from the University of New South Wales in Sydney looked at data from 34,000 older adults with hypertension. They found that those who took medication to lower blood pressure were no more likely to develop dementia than their peers with healthy blood pressure. Those who did not take their drugs had a higher risk. The study concluded: "Anti-hypertensive therapy throughout late life is an important part of dementia prevention."

High blood pressure is a "silent killer" and affects 15 million adults in the UK. One in three cases are undetected, so many people go without treatment.

Happiness of girls hit by social media

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Girls' happiness levels are at their lowest in 15 years due to fears about their appearance, online dangers and sexual harassment, a report has found.

Less than 20 per cent of those in Girlguiding's annual survey described themselves as very happy, down from 40 per cent in 2009. Meanwhile, 89 per cent said they felt generally worried or anxious. Researchers said the sharpest decline in happiness was among those aged between seven and ten, with 28 per cent happy compared with 57 per cent in 2009.

Angela Salt, the chief executive of Girlguiding, said: "It's devastating to hear that girls' happiness has steadily declined over the last 15 years.

"It's clear girls are feeling pressures from all angles, from harm online to appearance pressures to sexual harassment at school."

More than two thirds of those aged between 11 and 21 said they sometimes felt ashamed of the way they looked because they were not like the girls and women they saw in the media and online. Of those aged 11 to 21, 41 per cent said they often felt sad or depressed after spending time online and on social media.

A total of 2,614 girls and young women aged between seven and 21 took part in the survey.

Poacher told farmer: I'll cut off donkey's head and put it in your bed

Tom Saunders

It is one of cinema's most famous scenes: a Hollywood producer wakes up in his bed to find the bloody head of his beloved horse beside him — a punishment from Vito Corleone.

More than five decades on from the release of *The Godfather*, a poacher from Cheshire has been given a restraining order and told to complete 200 hours of volunteering after he threatened a family's pet donkeys with the same fate of the racehorse Khartoum in the film.

Paul Darlington, 36, told Thomas Canning that he would wake up with a donkey's head in his bed after he and a friend were caught illegally fishing on the family's £1.2 million lakeside farm.

As Darlington and his friend were escorted from the farm he told Canning, who was accompanied by his wife and adult son: "Could you not have just been nice? We know that you have got donkeys. We will come back in the night and kill them. Have you ever woken up with a donkey's head in your bed?"

The threat echoed the notorious scene from Francis Ford Coppola's 1972 movie, after the producer Jack Woltz refuses to cast the singer Johnny Fontaine — thought to be loosely based on Frank Sinatra — in a film. The horse's head prompted a change of heart.



Paul Darlington had also threatened to "kill the kids and let you watch"

Coppola used a real horse that was due to be slaughtered, prompting recriminations from animal activists.

Darlington had also threatened Canning's family, saying: "Thank you for walking us around the farm, we now know the layout … we will come back and break in and we will kill the kids and let you watch."

He and a friend were seen lurking around one of three lakes in the extensive grounds of Meadow View Farm in the village of Mickle Trafford, Cheshire, in July last year.

Darlington, from Ellesmere Port, denied wrongdoing, claiming he had been threatened first. He was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work and 20 days of rehabilitative activity and ordered to pay £514 in costs.

Darlington, who had previously been jailed for stamping on a man's head outside a nightclub, was also handed a five-year restraining order banning him from contacting members of the Canning family or entering their farm.

Judge Jack McGarva said: "The threats were particularly unpleasant, particularly the threats to harm one of their pets … the threats would have been frightening and have lasting effects on them."

Pub chain is urged to ensure staff know CPR

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A coroner has told Britain's third-largest pub chain that it should offer staff training in resuscitation after a drinker in south Wales died from a cardiac arrest.

An inquest was told that Christopher Locke, 37, went into cardiac arrest in the Lord Caradoc Wetherspoon pub in Port Talbot in 2021 and that staff were unable to save him.

Evidence showed that a cardiac arrest caused Locke to collapse in the pub and that his brain was starved of oxygen for at least 20 minutes. He had health problems before the collapse.

Pub staff called 999 and followed instructions they were given, but that did not include administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Aled Gruffydd, the assistant coroner for Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot, wrote to JD Wetherspoon in a prevention of future deaths report recommending it offer CPR training "to staff who express an interest".

The inquest was told that Locke's circulation was restored only when paramedics arrived eight minutes after being called. By then, he had suffered a brain injury from the lack of oxygen and he died at Morriston Hospital, Swansea.

Gruffydd gave the pub chain until October 19 to respond to his letter. A spokesman for Wetherspoons said it was "considering that response" and was unable to comment further.

RAY BURMISTON/BBC STUDIOS



Ready, steady, tango Strictly Come Dancing's 21st series begins on BBC1 on Saturday. Taking part are: 1 Nigel Harman, Casualty actor; 2 Amanda Abbington, Sherlock actress; 3 Adam Thomas, Emmerdale actor; 4 Angela Scanlon, BBC presenter; 5 Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Channel 4 News host; 6 Zara McDermott, reality TV contestant; 7 Layton Williams, Bad Education actor; 8 Les Dennis, comedian; 9 Nikita Kanda, radio presenter; 10 Jody Cundy, Paralympic cyclist and swimmer; 11 Angela Rippon, former newsreader; 12 Ellie Leach, Coronation Street actress; 13 Eddie Kadi, comedian; 14 Annabel Croft, former tennis star; 15 Bobby Brazier, actor

Coroner's warning after 'butt lift' death

Tom Saunders

The death of a British woman after she had a "Brazilian butt lift" in Turkey has prompted a coroner to write to Steve Barclay, the health secretary, over concerns that people underestimate the risks of pursuing cosmetic surgery overseas.

Melissa Kerr, 31, who was "conscious about her appearance", went to a private hospital in Istanbul for the operation but was only given "limited information regarding the risks and mortality rate" of the procedure.

Kerr, a psychological wellbeing practitioner from Denton, Norfolk, died after injected fat entered a vein before blocking her pulmonary artery. Her cause of death was recorded as a pulmonary thromboembolism. The operation typically involves harvesting fat from a site on the body and injecting it into the buttocks. The surgery has become popular in recent years.

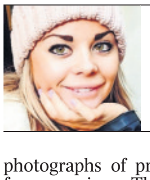
Between 2011 and 2021 the number of procedures in America went up by 800 per cent, according to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Kerr's death has led Jacqueline Lake, the senior coroner for Norfolk, to decide to write to Barclay.

Simon Withey, a consultant plastic surgeon who was asked to review evidence in the case, said that the death rate associated with Brazilian butt lifts was "likely to be in excess of one in 4,000".

He said it was "quite possible" that if the dangers of the operation had been outlined to Kerr before "she was financially committed to proceed, she would not have done". The procedure was arranged over WhatsApp and Kerr agreed to pay £3,200 in cash for the operation.

In messages, she said that she felt "a bit nervous" and asked to see



Melissa Kerr, 31, died after paying £3,200 for the surgery in Istanbul

photographs of previous patients on four occasions. There is no evidence that they were provided.

Kerr, who had a breast enlargement operation a decade earlier without complications, died at the Medicana Kadikoy hospital on the day of the butt lift last November.

Lake said at Kerr's inquest that there had been a "high number of patient deaths in similar circumstances". "There has been an international alert to surgeons regarding the high mortality rate associated with this procedure," she said.

"There has also been the introduction of a voluntary moratorium on this type of procedure in the UK. These are clearly not being followed in Turkey.

"I'm concerned [that] there will be future deaths and I'm of the view [they] can be prevented by way of better information."

It is not known how the practice originally got its name, although a Brazilian plastic surgeon, Ivo Pitanguy, has been credited in the past with pioneering the surgery in the 1960s. However, an editorial in the journal Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 2020 attributed the name to Leonard Grossman, a surgeon who liposuctioned fat from a Brazilian woman and injected it into her gluteal muscles for a segment called "Building the Brazilian Butt" that featured on the Learning Channel in 1996.

A report by the Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation in Aesthetic Surgery Journal in 2017 noted that one to two out of every 6,000 surgeries resulted in death, the highest mortality rate for any cosmetic surgery.

In 2018, the British Association of Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery told surgeons not to offer the practice, though they could not ban it outright.

Siblings of Sara Sharif now in care

Charlie Faulkner Islamabad

Five children taken to Pakistan by the fugitive couple wanted in connection with the death of ten-year-old Sara Sharif will be taken into care after a court ruling in the country.

Surrey police said the welfare of the five children was "a priority" and that they could now be returned to Britain. Sara was found dead with several injuries at the family home in Woking in August.

Police believe her father, Urfan Sharif, 41, his wife, Beinash Batool, 29, and his brother Faisal Malik, 28, went to Pakistan with the children, aged between two and 13, before Sara's body was found, sparking an international search.

The children were found by police on Monday at the home of Sharif's father in Jhelum, about 75 miles from Islamabad. Surrey police said they are working to secure the children's return after a judge ruled that the five would be sent to a Pakistan government childcare facility.

TFL



Line drawings London Transport Museum opens a gallery next month dedicated to poster art, including pieces by Edward McKnight Kauffer, Anna Zinkeisen and Man Ray



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Government 'broke law by failing to cut sewage spills'

Clean it up WATER CAMPAIGN

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

England's green watchdog has found the government and its regulators have potentially failed to comply with environmental laws by allowing sewage spills to happen too often.

Releases of raw sewage into rivers and seas from storm overflows are meant to happen only in exceptional circumstances such as heavy rainfall, as a relief valve to stop sewage backing up into homes.

But after an investigation, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) has informed Defra, the Environment Agency and the economic regulator Ofwat that it believes they failed to comply with legislation, meaning untreated sewage has been spilled more routinely than it should have. There were more than 300,000 spills into waterways last year.

The environment department and regulators have two months to dispute the watchdog's conclusion and set out how they will fix the problem.

The potential failings date back to laws under successive governments, and how they were interpreted.

Helen Venn, the chief regulatory officer at the OEP, said: "As a result of our investigations so far, we think there may have been misinterpretations of some key points of law."

She continued: "Where we interpret the law to mean that untreated sewage discharges should generally be allowed only in exceptional circumstances, such as during unusually heavy rainfall, it appears that the public authorities may have interpreted the law differently, permitting such discharges to occur more often."

The OEP found the Environment Agency potentially failed to set permit conditions issued for the storm overflow pipes, which allow companies to legally discharge sewage when rainfall overwhelms the capacity of treatment works. It is also believed to have failed in how it devised guidance for the requirements of the 1991 urban wastewater legislation.

Ofwat's potential failure was over its interpretation of companies' duties and related enforcement orders. In Defra's case, the potential failure was around water quality legislation and a 1997 guidance update to the urban wastewater law.

Depending on how the government and regulators respond, the OEP could ultimately take the bodies to the High Court to force improvements to water quality. The Times's Clean it Up campaign has been calling for tougher regulation to tackle pollution in rivers and seas.

The OEP focused on storm overflows around the sewage network, and excluded those at water companies' treatment works, which are subject to a separate investigation by Ofwat and the Environment Agency. The guidance on overflows was issued in 1997 and updated in 2009.

"The volume of sewage discharged is completely unacceptable," Defra said. "While we do not agree with the OEP's initial interpretations, which cover points of law spanning over two decades, we will continue to work constructively with the OEP."

Ofwat was contacted for comment.

Call to halve meat portions for climate

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

People should consider halving the amount of meat they eat from the equivalent of two sausages a day to one in order to help combat climate change, a study has suggested.

Replacing half of all meat and milk consumed globally with plant-based alternatives would reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that come from agriculture by 30 per cent by 2050, researchers have calculated.

Land use for farming would fall, potentially allowing the growth of new carbon-absorbing forests. Water consumption would be expected to decline, as would the number of people without enough to eat, the study claims.

The average Briton is estimated to consume about 86g of meat a day, roughly equivalent to two cooked pork sausages, according to a study published in The Lancet in 2021.

The new research, published in Nature Communications, estimates emissions from agriculture would fall by about 31 per cent, equivalent to an average of 2.1 gigatonnes of CO_2 each year between 2020 and 2050.

The research team included three people who had been or who are employees of Impossible Foods, a company that develops plant-based substitutes for meat. "The science team had complete control over decision-making for this peer reviewed study, and the data are not specific to Impossible Foods," the researchers said.

The UK's Climate Change Committee, an independent body that advises the government on how to meet carbon targets, suggests a 35 per cent cut in meat consumption by 2050.

Eva Wollenberg, of the University of Vermont, a co-author of the new research, said: "We'll need much more than 'Meatless Mondays' to reduce the global greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change."

Paul Simon learns to accept his hearing loss gracefully

Peter Chappell, Seren Hughes

Paul Simon has said he is "beginning" to accept his hearing loss as he admitted he can no longer play all of his repertoire live.

The 81-year-old singer-songwriter made the comments at the world premiere of *In Restless Dreams: the Music of Paul Simon* at the Toronto international film festival.

"I haven't accepted it entirely, but I'm beginning to," Simon, of the Sixties folk rock duo Simon and Garfunkel, said. "I play the guitar every day. It's the instrument that allows me to express myself creatively. But it's also where I go for solace. If I'm feeling … 'whatever'. So it's a very crucial thing to me. You know, something happens to you when you have some sort of disability that changes your awareness or changes how you interact with life."

Simon revealed he had lost the ability to hear in his left ear in May this year while recording his latest album, Seven Psalms, and there has been no improvement in his condition. "Usually, when I finished an album I went out and toured with it, and then I have the opportunity to really investigate the piece. And then it evolves to another standard, and goes further," Simon said.

"Although a week from now I'm going to try and work with two guitarists who will play the parts that I played on the record, and see if I can sing the piece. I'm not sure how I can integrate my voice with the guitars," he added.

"Quite suddenly, I lost most of the hearing in my left ear, and nobody has an explanation for it," he told The Sunday Times. "So everything became more difficult."

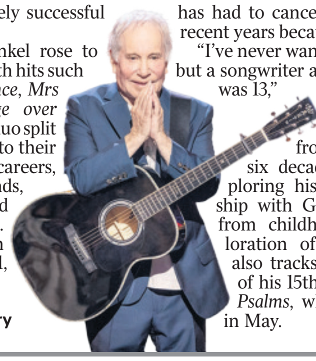
Simon said he had felt "frustration and annoyance" but not anger "because I thought it would pass, it would repair itself".

"The songs of mine that I don't want to sing live, I don't sing them. "Sometimes there are songs that I like and then … in a tour, I'll say, 'What are you doing, Paul?' Quite often that would come during *You Can Call Me Al*. I'd think, 'What are you doing? You're like a Paul Simon cover band. You should get off the road, go home.' "

In the film he reveals that he "fell into a depression" and explains how his creative process has changed because of his condition.

He admitted he was still making music, telling the audience he had written a new song called *When I Learned to Play Guitar*, but adding that he did not know whether he would "do anything with it".

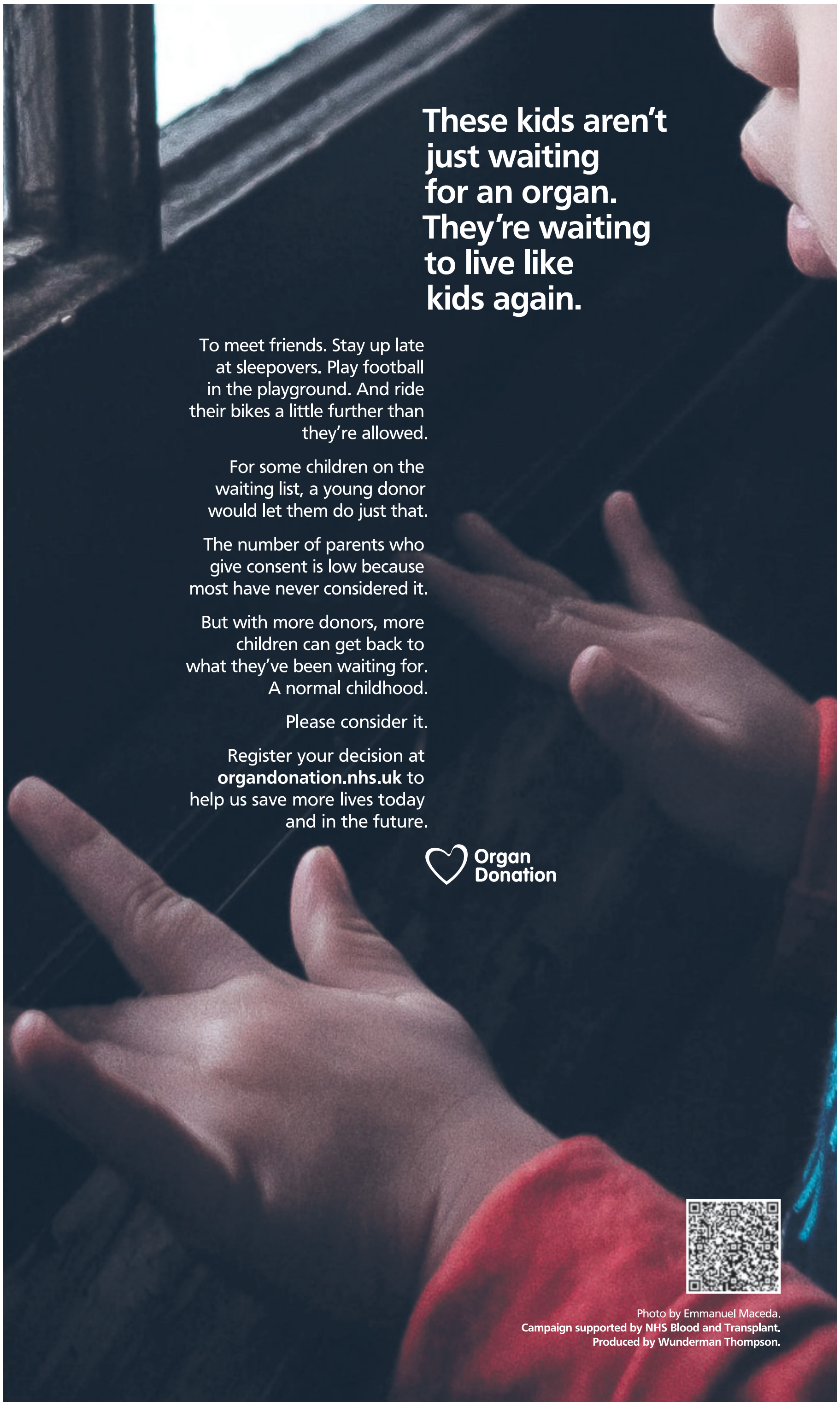
In Restless Dreams is a documentary about his life by Alex Gibney, the Oscar-winning director behind the documentaries *Taxi to the Dark Side* and *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*. The three-and-a-half-hour film explores his early career in Simon and Garfunkel and the recording of his hugely successful album *Graceland*.



Paul Simon says he is annoyed but not angry

Simon and Garfunkel rose to fame in the Sixties with hits such as *The Sound of Silence*, *Mrs Robinson* and *Bridge over Troubled Water*. The duo split in 1970, and went on to their own successful solo careers, never making amends, though they would play together again. They last did so in 2010. Garfunkel, 81, has had to cancel performances in recent years because of vocal issues.

"I've never wanted to be anything but a songwriter and a singer since I was 13," Simon says in the film. It uses archival images from his more than six decades in music, exploring his fraught partnership with Garfunkel, a friend from childhood, to his exploration of world music. It also tracks the development of his 15th solo album *Seven Psalms*, which was released in May.



TMS

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Signing books can be murder

The first casualty of literary success is handwriting. Demand for a signed copy of Richard Osman's novels has become so great that he has had to adapt his scrawl. "I can do 7,000 [signatures] in a day," he boasts and has so far scribbled his name 29,000 times on the latest. "It drives you mad, you forget how to write your name." To save time, Osman has stopped putting the dot, or tittle as it's known in the trade, above the 'i'. "If you do it 29,000 times that's two hours," he says. "On *Antiques Roadshow* in 50 years' time they'll be saying: 'The dot is the thing. This would be worth two or three hundred without the dot. With the dot that's £15,000'." Unlike on the quiz show that made his name, it won't pay to be pointless.

When Sir Brandon Lewis got his first ministerial job in 2012, he quickly realised that Yes, Minister *was a documentary. His first task was to sign a guidance note to councillors about a planning issue. Bafflingly, Lewis asked to read it first. "This guidance note explains there is no government guidance," he said. "Yes, minister," his official replied. Lewis says he still doesn't know if they were having fun with a new boy or oblivious to the irony.*

HOUSE OF KNOW-IT-ALLS

Appointed as a junior health minister two weeks before the first Covid lockdown, Lord Bethell had a baptism of fire, not least as he found so many doctors and scientists waiting to grill him in the Lords. "It's like stepping out of schoolboy cricket and suddenly facing the West Indian fast bowlers," Bethell, right, told the Institute for Government's Ministers Reflect series. This led him to joke that in the Commons the person who knows the most about any subject being discussed is the minister, while in the Lords the minister is the person who knows the least.



SHHH, DON'T TELL LIZ…

Liz Truss may have found a publisher for her book on why she is the greatest prime minister we barely had but not everyone is eager to work with her. Jeremy Lee, founder of the speakers' bureau JLA, which represents the likes of William Hague and David Miliband, had a meeting with Kwasi Kwarteng about him sharing the lessons of his internship at the Treasury with business leaders and was impressed but tells Politico that as they parted company he made one request of Kwarteng: "Please do not give my number to Liz Truss."

Twenty-five years after she was discovered on the TV series The Cruise, *Jane McDonald says it surprised her family that she went into the travel industry. "When I was younger I always used to get sick," she says. "I would be sick as a dog in the back of the car going to Bridlington so when I got my job on the ship, my mother laughed and said: 'You can't even get on a bus.' "*

THE THRIVER BIRDS

The story of the first British female rock band, the Liverbirds, is to be told for Faber by two of the musicians, Sylvia Saunders and Mary McGlory. Formed in Liverpool in 1963, they were dismissed by John Lennon, who told them backstage at the Cavern Club that "girls don't play guitars". This may explain why McGlory says they tried to sound like the Stones instead. Her own family didn't believe it either. McGlory showed her four-year-old grandson a photo of the band and he replied: "Is that when you used to be a boy?"

PATRICK KIDD

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Fun raising Mike Smith, 74, a Chelsea Pensioner, was rewarded for his work for the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans with a Spitfire flight from Biggin Hill over the south coast

Passengers face record rail fare rise

Ben Clatworthy Transport Correspondent

Rail passengers in England are facing the biggest fare increase since privatisation in 1996.

Prices will jump by almost 8 per cent in March if ministers use the same formula as they did for this year's increase. The Department for Transport (DfT) based this year's cap on fare increases with Britain's average weekly earnings growth for July last year, which was 5.9 per cent. Figures published by the Office for National Statistics yesterday showed that average weekly earnings rose by 8 per cent in July this year.

Norman Baker, director of external affairs at the Campaign for Better Transport, said: "The government should freeze rail fares — as they have done with fuel duty — until the long-promised ticketing reform takes place."

The DfT has already confirmed that next year's fare rises will be below the retail prices index measure of inflation for July, which was 9 per cent, but it has not announced what formula it will use instead.

A DfT spokeswoman said: "We'll continue to protect passengers from cost of living pressures. Any increase will also be delayed until March 2024."

Shoplifters make off with Primark profits

Tom Howard
Property and Professional Services Correspondent

Primark will increase security in its stores after its profits were hit by a rise in shoplifting.

The budget clothing brand's owner, Associated British Foods, said that summer profits had been dented by "higher than expected stock loss".

George Weston, its chief executive, said that shoplifting "continues to get worse". In some cases thieves were walking out with goods valued at more than £250, he added.

Ministers are being pressed to act on complaints from retailers that theft on the high street is spiralling out of control.

Dame Sharon White, chairwoman of the John Lewis Partnership, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* that shoplifting had reached "epidemic" levels. To encourage a police presence in stores, John Lewis and Waitrose have started offering free coffees to on-duty officers.

Eoin Tonge, ABF's finance director, said there was little sign that theft, or the abuse of store staff, would recede soon. "As we've gone through the year, [shoplifting] has been ticking up and we expect it to keep high into next year," he said. Primark has fewer staff in stores partly because it has brought in self-checkouts. Weston insisted that self-service tills were not linked to the rise in shoplifting. "We have enough examples of self-checkout to be fairly clear of its consequences on stock loss. It's not what is driving stock loss," he said.

Primark plans to recruit more security guards, especially in shops "where we have a particular issue". More CCTV cameras and remote monitoring systems are to be installed and body cams will be handed out to staff where necessary.

Clive Black, a retail industry analyst at Shore Capital, said the cost of living crisis was probably forcing some people to "do things they wouldn't otherwise do". He added: "The need for shoplifting has increased and the penalties for [it] are almost non-existent. A lot of people [steal] because they can and won't get caught. It's down to individual morals and standards and the number of people whose morals aren't what they were a few years ago has gone up."

In July, the British Retail Consortium wrote to mayors and to police and crime commissioners asking them to do more to protect retail workers.

The trade association's most recent crime survey showed that incidents of violence and abuse against store workers had almost doubled compared with before the pandemic. Shops nationwide encounter an average of more than 850 incidents each day. Meanwhile, research has found that security guards in the UK feel at greater risk from violent criminals, including shoplifters, than any other country in Europe.

The survey of 1,775 chief security officers in 30 countries tracked threats to staff in retail, entertainment, healthcare and banks.

The threat from violent criminals was reported by 42 per cent of British respondents, compared with a world average of 33 per cent and a European average of 30 per cent. Almost nine in ten UK security officers said they expected physical security threats to increase over the next 12 months.

Where minor crimes go unpunished, leading article, page 25
Owner promises bigger returns, page 36

T BOOKS

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Students' breath of fresh air for lung patients gets Dyson prize

Richard Tyler

Home treatment of chronic mucus on the lungs could be available in a year if student inventors can prove their AI-powered device works.

The technology has been created by Pleural, a group of four master's students in their second year of a joint Royal College of Art and Imperial College London programme.

Their device mimics the gentle tapping of the chest used by doctors to identify if fluid is present and then builds the frequency of the percussion to mobilise the mucus and help its users clear their airways.

Its potential to support the estimated 3.9 million people in the UK who suffer from excess mucus has helped Pleural land this year's UK James Dyson Award. The team will receive £5,000 to develop a working prototype to be tested by patients and medical professionals.

Daniel Hale, 25, the lead engineer in the team, said they had wanted to help family members with health conditions including long Covid. "My grandmother has COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], which is a condition that lots of people have. It makes doing things that you take for granted more difficult and makes you more vulnerable to Covid," he said.

"Mucus is a symptom and it's a bit disgusting. People find it embarrassing to cough up, but it is useful to clear the lungs," added Hale, who grew up in Bexley, southeast London, and has an engineering degree from Cambridge.

The students started work on Pleural last September and have self-financed 40 experimental prototypes of the handheld device, as well as the machine-learning software they have developed to support users with diagnoses and treatment.

Frankie Jackson-Spence, an NHS junior doctor and a judge on the award, said: "They have shown exceptional innovation and teamwork to get this invention to where it is. It has the potential to make a huge impact on a population level, with one in five of us experiencing respiratory disease."

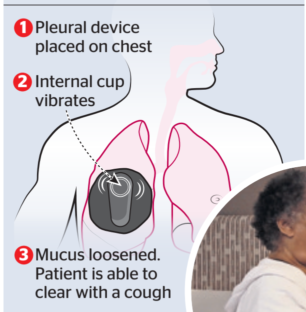
Hale said Pleural would work with organisations representing patients, such as the Breathe Easy Foundation and Asthma + Lung UK, to prove the device is effective. The hope is that it will help those with asthma, cystic fibrosis and bronchiectasis, as well as COPD.

Hale said that while it would take years for the device to achieve regulatory approval for use on the NHS, the plan was to make it available for private use in a year's time, if the tests prove positive and they can raise sufficient capital from investors.

One of the Pleural team, Yihan Dong, was also a runner-up for the Dyson award after submitting a separate project with Kenny Malpartida Cardenas, a fellow student. Their venture, called ViWipe, is a non-invasive test for cervical cancer using menstrual blood.

The other runner-up was Eden Harrison, whose Reef dB structures mitigate the damage caused to marine life by dampening underwater noise pollution created by offshore wind turbines.

How it works





The handheld device mimics the gentle tapping on the chest used by doctors



Tory Burch went a step further in her evolution into a modern, minimalist designer in New York, with clothes intended to "free up space in your mind"

Burch brings back the Sixties space age

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR

Tory Burch's brand was once the epitome of preppy chic, its balance sheet fuelled more than anything by its logo-emblazoned ballet pumps (Anna Murphy writes).

In recent seasons, however, it has been evolving into something more modern, more minimalist, and its latest showing in New York took things further again. The mood was so contemporary as to come across as almost space age, although, courtesy of a quirk in the space-time continuum, what's space age tends also to have a 1960s flavour.

The scoop-necked, slit-sleeved tunic tops would have fitted right in on the deck of a spaceship. Ditto the scuba-suit-ish tailoring. The hoop-hemmed dresses were perfect for an intergalactic cocktail o'clock. As for the shoes, they were as sculptural as jewellery, and the handbags looked almost aerodynamic. The extra-terrestrial mood was dialled up further by the location, the lunar-like Richard Gilder Center at the Museum of Natural History.

It's rare to see a designer reinvent herself to the degree that Burch has done, and certainly not without the impetus that comes with moving from one brand to another. Burch spoke after the show of her desire to explore "what effortless means now. In a chaotic world I want to produce clothes that free up space in your mind." She was clearly also having fun, to wit a mesh overlayer decorated with tiny bells, and models wearing cow earrings.

For Burch the shift began during Covid, when she started to re-examine an aesthetic she has described as originally "inspired by my family and people around me" and stripped it back to "a more personal version of me". She was also inspired by Claire McCardell, the mid-century American designer who is credited with revolutionising the way women dress. She was a "renegade and a feminist", Burch said. "And I think that's brilliant." McCardell's "popover dress" of 1942, for example, was designed to be worn to clean the house in and then to go out to a cocktail party.

She also popularised ballet pumps. No one's going to be doing any cleaning in Burch's upscale offerings but the synergies are there.

Smashed iPhone 'led to US army truck rampage in Somerset'

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A military truck owner rampaged through a police roadblock after an argument with his partner during which he smashed her iPhone, a court has been told.

In the argument Geoffrey Marshall, 41, smashed the iPhone belonging to his partner, Kathryn Marshall Lam, 39, and threw it in a river as she fled her home in the village of Norton Fitzwarren, near Taunton, Somerset, on Sunday.

When police arrived they found Marshall in the driver's seat of his large American military truck.

North Somerset magistrates' court was told he had refused to get out of the truck. He drove it into Lam's house and then "destroyed" four marked police vehicles blocking the road. He also damaged four of his neighbours' cars as well as a lamppost.

After rampaging through the police road block he drove six miles towards a bridge over the M5.

He got out of the truck and climbed over the railings of the motorway bridge, causing traffic to be stopped in both directions.

The court was told that had been attempting suicide, but that after 25 minutes police officers managed to get him off the bridge and arrest him.

Paul Kelly, for the prosecution, told the court: "This really revolves around his partner … on that afternoon she was involved in an argument about messages found on his phone by her. That led to an argument which escalated and caused Ms Lam into leaving her property, which she owns, for her safety."

In court yesterday Marshall pleaded guilty to 12 offences of criminal damage, one of dangerous driving and one of assault by beating of Lam.

Kelly said the assault charge was because he had smashed Lam's iPhone, which caused the glass to shatter and a "small amount of glass to go into her hand".

Kelly told the court that the offences carried sentences starting at 18 months in custody, and that Marshall should be sentenced in a crown court.

"What started as a reasonably low-level domestic dispute has spiralled out of control," Kelly said. "It was nothing short of a reign of terror."

Trevor Morgan, chairman of the bench, told Marshall he would be remanded in custody before being sentenced at Taunton crown court on October 13.

Days before the argument, Marshall had shared on his Facebook page a picture of a 1950s family and said: "Back when it was okay to be a man."





Geoffrey Marshall drove his lorry into his partner's house and then damaged four police vehicles, four other cars and a lamppost before climbing over railings on a road bridge

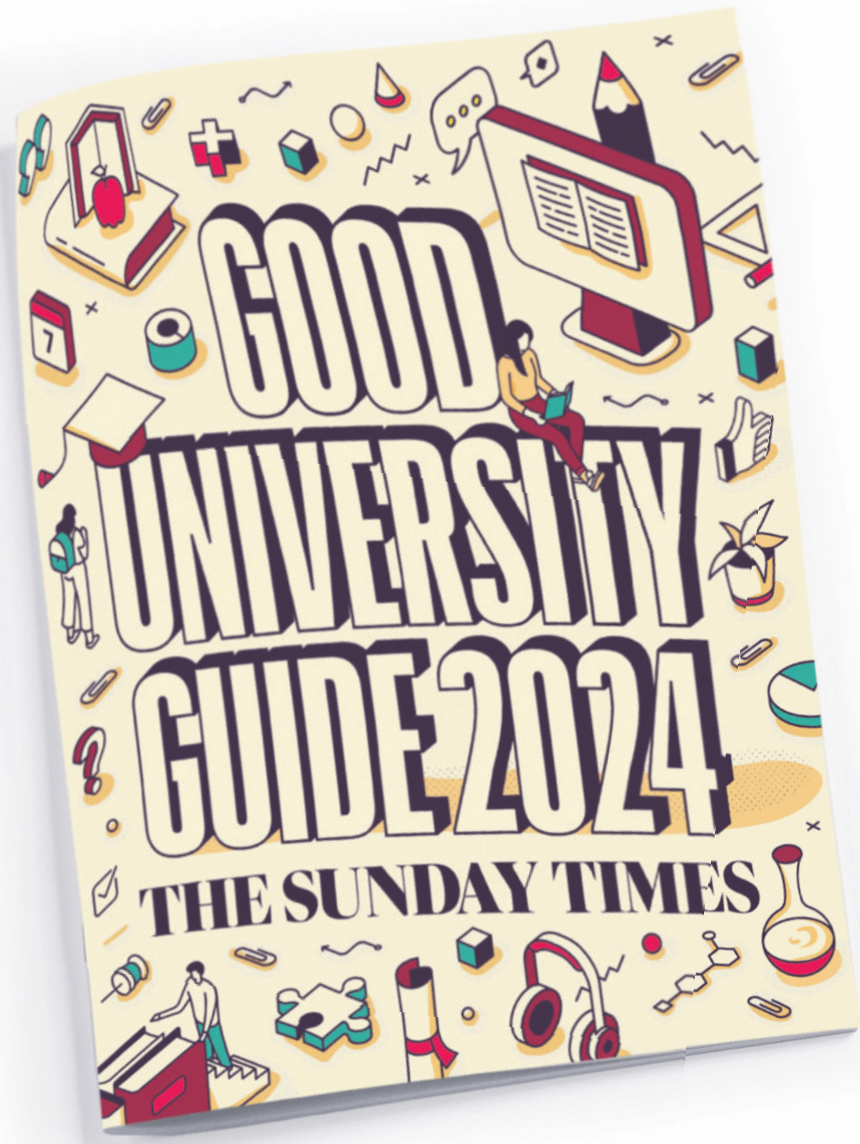
T STUDENTS

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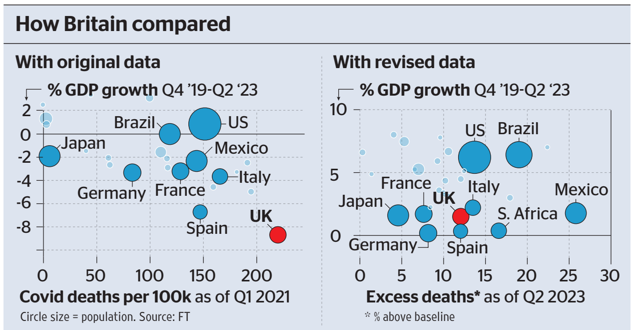
Even on Covid deaths, UK wasn't the worst

The positive revision of economic and other data from the pandemic shows the risks of jumping to snap conclusions

Daniel Finkelstein



@DANNYTHEFINK



Boris Johnson's premiership was chaotic. He didn't pay attention in meetings, kept changing his mind, and told whoever was in front of him whatever they wanted to hear. Anthony Seldon and Raymond Newell's book on his period in office is both persuasive and shocking. Dominic Cummings complains that the authors never interviewed him. If they had, the picture they painted would only have been darker.

It is, therefore, unsurprising that when faced with a pandemic the Johnson government achieved an outcome that was one of the worst in the developed world for deaths and for economic impact.

This was the narrative that developed in the early days of the pandemic and it never really changed. It was the thrust of Sir Keir Starmer's attack. The figures seemed to support it, and so did common sense. The government's claim — that its pandemic response was world-beating — was too obviously ridiculous to act as much of a counterweight.

So the common narrative had everything going for it. Except for one thing. It was wrong.

The premiership of Johnson was indeed a mess, his government indeed made serious mistakes, they definitely missed opportunities to do better, their claims about their performance were often absurd. But the UK was not one of the worst in the world for deaths or for economic impact. Instead we were just in the middle of the pack.

It is reasonable to argue that we should have done better, fine to argue that the whole pack didn't do that well, but simply wrong to suggest that we were outliers.

Little more than a week ago the Office for National Statistics revised its measure of economic growth during and after the pandemic. It had previously judged that the economy was 1.2 per cent smaller at the end of 2021 than at the beginning of lockdown. The UK was still poorer than it had been when Covid struck and its recovery was at the bottom of the G7. We were the only country that hadn't climbed back.

Now the ONS has announced that our recovery was quite quick. Indeed, it had been 0.6 per cent higher than before the pandemic, even at the end of 2021. By now Britain is likely to be outperforming Germany.

At the same time it has become obvious that our Covid death figures

> The UK was in the middle of the pack for pandemic mortality

were not outliers either. The data journalist John Burn-Murdoch has been tracking Covid deaths since the start of the pandemic. This week, in a column for the Financial Times, he said that we were simply better at counting than other countries. "Once the dust had settled, the UK was in the middle of the pack for pandemic mortality. It was not simply that two years ago Britain was faring badly and then things improved: Britain had always been faring better than the initial data suggested."

There is another study that suggests the position is even better than that. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington calculates that British excess deaths were below the west European average. But there are solid reasons (to do with counting previous excess deaths) for preferring a somewhat less favourable view.

Obviously, the most important reason for acknowledging this middle position is that it helps with the estimation of our performance during Covid. I was told early in the pandemic that one of the most senior government health advisers expected us to finish in the middle of the pack and it is significant that the outcome was not too far from his expectation.

The outcomes of any series of events will be randomly distributed so a result that is worse than some and better than others is compatible (I put it no stronger than that) with us having made no worse mistakes than other nations.

Starmer said that our being in the worst position in Europe could not be "bad luck". But where does that leave him now we aren't in the worst position? I doubt he'd be so keen to ascribe that to Johnson. And neither would I. Because absolutely, bad luck is one plausible (note, one plausible) reason why we aren't at the top of the outcomes table and good luck is one plausible reason why we aren't at the bottom.

This is not the same as saying that the mistakes were unavoidable, or that we can't learn from them. It's not the same as saying there aren't serious questions. We can all reel off what they are. It's very possible (indeed virtually certain) that with better decision-making we could have done better.

But I do think it allows the Covid inquiry to be conducted in a calm way without starting from the assumption that the overall response was uniquely terrible. The inquiry should be eagerly looked forward to as a learning experience, not as a chance to settle scores with people who voted Leave in the referendum.

Some may bristle at this due to a merited distrust of Johnson. But he was not the only person involved in pandemic decision-making. There were a lot of admirable public servants too. And in any case, the outcome is eloquent.

Yet the figures being adjusted is important in two other ways that have little to do with Covid. The first is that we base most of our political decision-making on figures. So where are we left if they are wrong?

In 1976, the Labour chancellor Denis Healey went (as the political attack had it) "cap in hand" to borrow money from the International Monetary Fund. It was hugely politically damaging and he had to follow IMF guidance on future policy, against the instincts of his party. Years later he was still complaining bitterly that he wouldn't have had to if the Treasury hadn't "got the bloody figures wrong" and made things look worse than they were.

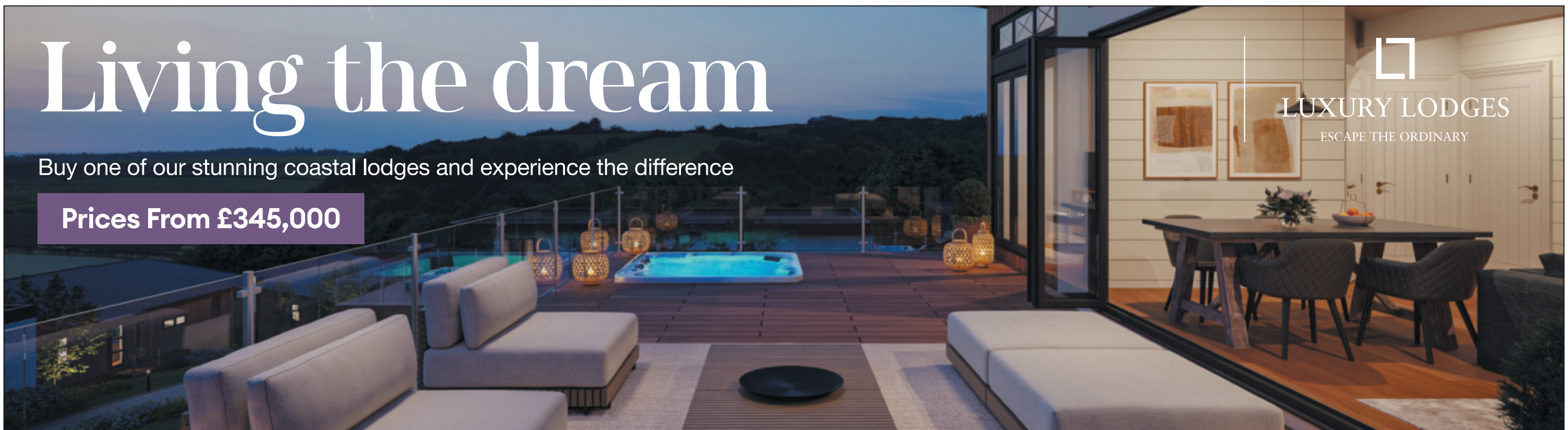
Almost every subsequent election has been fought with debates over sums of money in proposed spending or possible tax that are later dwarfed by adjustments to past outcomes or future projections.

There is no alternative to measuring and modelling. And people often make the mistake of assuming that any changes will show things are better than they look when they are just as likely to show they are worse. But it is still important to note that precision is difficult. Tories have taken to calling Starmer "Captain Hindsight" on the basis that hindsight is easy. In fact, it isn't.

The other lesson is that we should beware of adopting and sticking to narratives and using them to interpret everything. Establishing a narrative is a powerful weapon in politics exactly because it is so hard to escape. Everything becomes a symbol of the story being told. Even, in Ed Miliband's case, eating a sandwich.

A good politician is often a skilled storyteller. But in real life things don't unfold as neat stories.

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Comment

Kim as go-between spells trouble for Europe

North Korean dictator's Russian trip could give China cover to strengthen its support for Putin

Roger Boyes



@ROGERBOYES

Train travel, it is said, is time travel. It took the North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un some 20 hours to trek up-country this week in an armoured train, pass the Russian frontier, change railway gauge and trundle his way deep into Russia's far east — on to a summit with Vladimir Putin.

Kim prefers this mode of transport because of its understated luxury — mood-enhancing white walls, red leather armchairs, singing female conductors — and because, like his train-loving grandfather and father before him, he fears being shot down. It may be slow but it remains the Great Paranoia Express, a source of womb-like comfort.

Will it be worth the effort? If all goes well with Putin, Kim could save the Kremlin leader's skin, supplying him with the artillery shells, bullets, anti-tank missiles and multiple rocket launchers that Russia needs to create a decisive battlefield advantage over Ukraine.

Kim has emerged from a long period of isolation — this is his first foreign trip since 2019 — awake to the idea that the world order is being reshuffled and that his hermit kingdom could be part of it. Alongside Russia, China and Iran — which supplies drones to smash Ukrainian hospitals and power stations — Kim's North Korea could emerge as a winner if Kyiv is crushed.

All he has to do, it seems, is plunder his huge but ageing arsenal, built up over 70 years to fight South Korea. The deal was set up in a July visit to North Korea by the Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu, who was proudly shown Kim's prime exhibits. But Shoigu and his advisers appeared more interested in North Korean kit that could be cannibalised.

Despite an urgent reorganisation of Russians arms factories — a 30 per cent increase in production has been ordered until the end of the year — output is falling behind, from electronics to the manufacture of

> The risk is that Kim becomes a stable ally of China and Russia

tank barrels. The defence ministry is talking about repairing and refitting clapped-out T-80 tanks but there are blockages in the supply chain. Could the North Koreans provide gun barrels? Not without dismantling the whole turret of the North Korean donor tanks, say some experts.

It is down, then, to the nitty-gritty. Kim has brought with him his Russian-speaking munitions industry boss, Jo Chun-ryong, as well as one of his most technically adept generals, Ri Pyong-chol. A scheduled visit to a Sukhoi factory suggests that Kim would be ready to take fighter jets in part-exchange. The deal could also include Russian grain — the poor 2021 harvest and border closures led to malnutrition in hundreds of thousands of North Korean children — and access to advanced rocket technology for Kim's nuclear programme. Not much of that will be sorted out at this week's summit but a point will have been made: Kim is, as far as Putin is concerned, on the right side of history.

There is, however, a deeper significance to the visit than the reintegration of a pariah dictator into the rogues' gallery around Putin. The Russian leader's future hangs on the rather hollow promise from Xi Jinping of a "limitless" friendship between Moscow and Beijing. As the war against Ukraine dragged on, Xi did indeed set limits: China would supply only non-lethal military assistance to Russia.

The aid started off as bullet-proof vests, dual-use drones and thermal optical sights, and then took in outright mislabelling such as hunting rifles and helmets for paintballers. China's concern was that it could land on the European secondary sanctions list. But it also wanted to position itself as a possible mediator for a future settlement. As a hands-off supplier to the Russian military effort China enhances its claim to be the champion of the global south.

The Russians swallowed but were never satisfied by this conditional support from Beijing. Soviet Russian arms co-operation with communist-led China began in earnest after the Korean War. Soviet military aid tripled the strength of the Chinese air force, adding 700 MiG-15s and 150 Tu-2 light bombers to the air fleet. Russia helped to train Chinese nuclear scientists and to design warheads. Nowadays China is still dependent on Russian-made engines for its new aircraft — the Chengdu J-20 stealth fighter, for example, runs on Russian Saturn AL-31 engines.

Why can't China continue to honour its historic links with the Russian military establishment, Moscow's "patriotic" bloggers ask. After all, Russia played a big part in modernising the Chinese armed forces. This disgruntlement is understood in Beijing, perhaps to the extent of Chinese leaders being ready to covertly meet some of Moscow's needs in its protracted war against Ukraine.

One theory is that Putin's interest in dealing with Kim is less to do with North Korea's offering and more with providing a cover for the supply of Chinese kit. That could work by Kim handing over some of his mothballed stocks to Putin and having his arsenal replenished by China.

Kim gains a more modern army courtesy of Xi's generals. Russia gets its war materiel. China fulfils its commitment to Putin but does so with a degree of deniability. There are other feasible variants of this deal but the political benefits to Russia and China are clear: attention-seeking Kim becomes a more stable ally of his big neighbours, more controllable.

Ukraine will not see it that way: anything that keeps up the flow of weaponry to the Russian front line signifies trouble and destruction. As for the west, Kim's return to the global scene merely underlines what should be the strategic watchword of our time: Russia and China have to be kept apart if there is to be peace in Europe. Together, they are double trouble.

THUNDERER

Pupils suffer amid short-term fixes and long-term cuts

Lee Elliot Major

Our efforts to reduce stark achievement gaps in schools resemble a drunk crouching under a street lamp searching for their keys. While they may have dropped them in the street elsewhere, they look in the one place where the light is shining. Our drives to equalise educational outcomes fail because we focus solely on improving teaching while ignoring the barriers to learning pupils face in those neglected, darkened neighbourhoods.

This week's sobering analysis of test results for 11-year-old pupils in maths, reading and writing highlights bigger inequalities during the pandemic era, both inside and outside the school gates. Children from under-resourced backgrounds are far more likely to fall below expected standards in England's primary schools. On this measure, children in the southwest and east of England are way behind their peers in London.

A lack of study space or internet doesn't do justice to the divisions that scar our society. Children are turning up to school with empty

> The evidence points to widening inequities in the post-pandemic era

stomachs, poor eyesight, rotting teeth and all manner of unmet educational needs. That's if they turn up at all. We have a tidal wave of persistent school absence. The overwhelming evidence on social mobility points to widening inequities in the post-pandemic era.

All this resonates with what we know from international comparisons: children flourish when freed of the obstacles that inhibit their learning. Finland is among the highest performers in the latest OECD test rankings for 15-year-olds. The country boasts one of the world's smallest achievement gaps. Its success is as much about basic welfare as it is classroom pedagogy. Free school lunches and comprehensive welfare services are provided by all Finnish schools.

This isn't a counsel of despair that schools are powerless in the face of escalating poverty. Far from it: we want both the highest possible standards of teaching and a national campaign to ensure all children are ready to learn at school and are supported by their parents. The crumbly concrete crisis signalled a much deeper problem in education: for decades our schools have been victims of short-term fixes and long-term cuts. Politicians have been blind to all the keys required to unlock our children's talents. Failure to wake up to this will only store greater headaches for future generations.

Lee Elliot Major is professor of social mobility at the University of Exeter

Matthew Parris Notebook

Missing pub date left a bad taste in my mouth

I am not an exceptionally virtuous person, my judgment can be erratic and I'm sometimes harsh, but I do hate letting people down. Little makes me more miserable than to have been relied upon and trusted, then failed to fulfil the undertaking. The guilt and depression take ages to fade and "it's no good crying over spilt milk" never soothes. So when on Sunday afternoon I let them down at the Barley Mow in Kirk Ireton, a black cloud descended.

I simply forgot. I'd returned to Derbyshire from Dublin that morning, it was in the diary for the afternoon, there was no excuse, and they'd even emailed a reminder that morning, which I'd failed to see. I was to be a "special guest" for a plant and produce prize-giving that afternoon and would (I suppose) make a little speech before the award of prizes. It would be fun, and I'd felt honoured to be asked — because the Barley Mow is a gem among English pubs.

Look it up. Built in 1683, it has been a pub for more than two centuries and is as close as any hostelry I know to being what an 18th-century pub would have felt and looked like, dark panelled walls, jugs of ale and all. As the local MP I was regularly harangued by the then landlady on the subject of nuclear disarmament. She had held out until the last against decimalisation and would exchange the new money for pounds, shillings and pence for customers to pay with. I didn't mind the harangues or the threepenny bits, I just loved the atmosphere, so I'd looked forward to going on Sunday. But forgotten which Sunday.

Rachel, the landlady, was awfully nice about it when I rang and said I'd be welcome back anyway. So I'll return. But with my tail between my legs.

Africa reunion

My Dublin trip was for a reunion. It's 50 years since Jay, John, Brent, Francis and I set off from London in a second-hand Land Rover to cross Europe, the Sahara, the Congo jungle, Rwanda and Tanzania to Nairobi. Francis (who lives in Dublin) was a friend from Cambridge, and the others friends from my time at Yale. To the despair of partners acquired since that trip, we five just talked and talked about our great adventure, and all the thrills and spills before we reached Kenya.



Brent, we recalled, had fallen down an uncapped manhole into a sewer in Bangui in the Central African Republic but survived, badly cut. I had been catapulted from the roof rack (where I was riding) when we crashed off the road in northern Cameroon. Landing in a field, I'd dislocated both my shoulders and my comrades had to lift each hand so I could grip the vehicle's roof before dropping my weight to relocate each shoulder. The pain was excruciating. Later I had danced with pygmies.

In Zaire we'd climbed the Nyiragongo volcano — which erupted four years later, killing many, and then again in 2002, devastating the town of Goma that we remembered so well. We'd guided a Rwandan border official's hand to sign our visas because he was too drunk to see properly, and paid $500 for a $2 curry at Rosie's restaurant in Mwanza, by the shores of Lake Victoria, receiving change in black market Tanzanian shillings. What larks, Pip, what larks!

Everyone but me has retired now. None of us had changed — or would acknowledge any change, anyway. I saw no character development: to me we were all just versions, shrivelled or podgy, of the boys we'd been all those years ago.

Wilder still shines

Last Friday, drafting my Saturday column for The Times, I needed a quote I half remembered, from Thornton Wilder. I found it but lingered among reviews of the great 20th-century American author, so "with" him do I feel. Three quotes struck me, and I took a note. On Jane Austen: "How seldom readers seem to remark on all that contempt for the whole human scene that lies just under the surface." Wilder wrote that decades before DW Harding's 1940 essay on Austen's "regulated hatred" popularised the idea.

Raised in a devoutly Christian family, Wilder said his faith "was gone before I missed it, like a coat left in some railway station". Religion, he wrote, "is the emanation of an extinct star".



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Why we all need to talk about Gen Ket

Ketamine use by students is rife and parents must discuss the dangers of a drug that is the biggest killer on campus

Alice Thomson



@ALICETTIMES

'No one told me I'd end up incontinent," said Lola, a third-year psychology student at Newcastle University. Lola had been taking ketamine regularly since freshers week until her family GP suggested that her recurring cystitis and crippling bowel pains might be caused by the drug. She'd even passed out in pain in her hall of residence with ketamine-induced stomach cramps after a night of clubbing but assumed she had contracted food poisoning from a burger.

Doctors from Devon to Suffolk, Yorkshire and London have raised the alarm this summer about ketamine abuse. Most cases they see involve urinary tract problems and depression. Long-term use can also cause memory loss, panic attacks and psychosis, and no one yet knows the drug's prolonged effects on adolescent brains.

In extreme cases, the toxic chemicals can end up permanently damaging the bladder, with patients potentially having to use a stoma bag. Medics at the Countess of Chester Hospital in Cheshire warned as much after they treated one male user who could no longer urinate.

But ketamine is increasingly the drug of the young. In an age of anxiety, with teenagers feeling overwhelmed by everything from exam results to student loans and climate change, "Gen Ket" often finds it the cheapest and easiest way to switch off when they socialise. It only costs £3 a dose, the price of an oat milk latte or an Aperol spritz. Ketamine made up more than a quarter of drugs confiscated at festivals such as Reading, Leeds and Boardmasters this year.

A quarter of 16 to 24-year-olds said in 2022 that they had tried it, with one in 20 saying they used it regularly. In Devon, drug treatment services have reported a 53 per cent increase in young people taking ket. Seizures of the drug at the border increased by more than 400 per cent last year, from 37kg to 154kg, according to the Immigration Services Union.

> There have been 41 student deaths caused by the drug since 2000

A powerful dissociative anaesthetic, the drug can stop users feeling pain while relaxing them with hallucinogenic side effects. But it can also cause loss of muscle control and leave those who take it feeling disorientated, vulnerable and at risk of assault.

While the government has been focusing on the unsightly canisters of laughing gas left in parks and banning flavoured vapes such as the Elf bars favoured by children, they've said little about ketamine. Yet it's raising serious health concerns for the young and is the biggest killer on campus — the cause of 41 deaths since the drug became prevalent in 2000. Seven students died in 2021 alone.

As teenagers arrive for freshers week, few will know much about its side effects unless they've come across it at their sixth form. An article for The Tab student newspaper said: "Before coming to university many students may not know a great deal about ket … all that changes though when you walk through the door."

Ket is being pushed by dealers and undergraduates can usually order by phone, often using an equine emoji as the substance was once used as a horse tranquilliser. You can find it easily online too, and students are often sold it with "study drugs" such as Ritalin to relax after an all-night essay crisis.

Graduates are still taking it while on trainee schemes with management consultants, law firms and banks, using it to try to switch off after punishing hours. "It's seen as pretty harmless, cheaper than a vape or a drink and you don't get a hangover. It's not 'look at me' like cocaine or sleazy like heroin. It's the drug of our age group," said Katya, a first-year trainee at an American law firm who is working 90-hour weeks. But for a few the effects are deadly and mixing it with alcohol, cocaine or MDMA can make it even more potent.

> The drug has become the go-to substance for county lines gangs

The charity Church on the Street links a rise in ketamine addicts with the cost of living crisis because the drug is so affordable and accessible. The charity's founder, Pastor Mick Fleming, said that young people were becoming addicted as they grappled with mental health, housing and financial issues.

It is increasingly the go-to substance for county lines gangs, with police appearing to take a more lenient approach. "Ketamine is a cheap drug that helps you to escape reality. But when you're trying to come off it, you get such overwhelming feelings of impending doom and anxiety that it's hard to stop," said Fleming. "And there's no substitute you can take to counteract the effects of withdrawal, like methadone for heroin."

It's confusing for the young as legal micro-doses of medical-grade ketamine, usually in the form of a nasal spray or injection, are being seen as a way to alleviate symptoms of depression. According to The Wall Street Journal, Elon Musk said that he uses it and found it better than "zombifying people with SSRIs [prescribed antidepressants]."

Young people need to know all the facts about ketamine so they can make informed decisions and understand the medical as well as legal risks they are taking. It's impossible to stop Gen Z from trying any harmful drugs and binge-drinking, but they should be aware of the potential dangerous consequences and side effects. Do they really want to risk becoming incontinent? The issue needs to be discussed at home, in sixth form colleges, universities, on apprenticeship schemes and among employers. And when parents drop off their children on the first day of college or university next week and help them unpack their duvets and mugs, they should tell them to have fun but play safe.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to **letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

Not proper doctors

Sir, Physician assistants (PAs) and anaesthetist assistants (AAs) have been recognised as valuable colleagues of physicians and anaesthetists in many countries for years, but always identified as "assistant". So too in Britain until 2013, when the name for PA was changed to "associate" ("NHS revolt looms over 'physician associates'", Sep 11; letter, Sep 12). I know of no other profession for which "associates" are anything other than members of the stated profession — architects, lawyers, engineers etc. To indicate that PAs are associates of the medical profession is misleading and confusing. Patients cannot be expected to give properly informed consent to treatment if they are misled. That might be politically convenient in terms of NHS workforce planning and public perception, but is to be deprecated.
Richard Rawlins FRCS
Retired orthopaedic surgeon, Kingswear, Devon

Life after prison

Sir, Your letters (Sep 11) and editorial (Sep 8) rightly emphasise the role of rehabilitation. A substantial number of prisoners on release who do not have accommodation or the means of earning a livelihood return to crime. Prison chaplains should be central to the work of rehabilitation. The Sikh Prison Chaplaincy makes it obligatory for its chaplains to liaise with prisoners near the end of their sentence and their local gurdwaras to find accommodation and employment as well as support and reconciliation with their families — and it works.
Lord Singh of Wimbledon
Sikh Prison Chaplaincy Service UK

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Unpicking the triple lock on state pensions

Sir, The reason why it is difficult to solve the problem identified by William Hague ("It's time to unpick the triple lock on pensions", Sep 12) is to be found in Melanie Phillips's column of the same day: elected politicians are expected to provide what their constituents want. Pensioners will not vote for a party that wants to reform the triple lock even though it will, in time, impoverish the country. One finds this in other critical areas. No party could sensibly propose a debate on reforming the NHS even though many accept the need to do so. As Phillips says, a degree of statesmanship is required. This might coincide with Hague's suggestion of a cross-party approach. Crucially, voters also need to look beyond their own interests to those of the country. Failure even to address these issues is a sign of a weak democracy.
Peter Smith
Woking, Surrey

Sir, William Hague rightly raises questions over the sustainability of the triple lock. Similarly, Patrick Hosking (business, Sep 12) highlights a key flaw in the chancellor's ambitions to access surpluses in defined benefit pension schemes for investment purposes, namely that the vast majority are closed to new members. There is an obvious solution to both issues. Pay-as-you-go public sector pensions, and the state pension, cost taxpayers hundreds of billions a year because both are unfunded. The UK should follow the likes of Canada and the Netherlands and create fully or partially funded public sector pensions. A super-fund of £500 billion could target returns above gilts by investing in productive assets while reducing the burden on the taxpayer by up to £25 billion a year — freeing critical funds for public spending.
Kerrin Rosenberg
CEO, Cardano Investment

Sir, William Hague is wrong to single out the state pension as unsustainable when one of the biggest debts the UK has relates to the pensions of civil servants and ministers. If it is decided that the triple lock should go then an equivalent reduction should be made in civil servants' pension schemes.
John Holder
Harrogate, N Yorks

Sir, William Hague says that the triple lock should be abandoned but omits to mention national insurance contributions in his article. There is no logical reason that I can see why a person should stop paying NI upon reaching state pension age.
David Simpson
Darby Green, Hants

Sir, What ought not to be forgotten is that other developed countries do not have a triple lock because they do not need it. The triple lock is demeaning but it is needed because the existing state pension rate is so poor. Why is it that other EU countries can afford a decent level of pension but we cannot?
David Diprose
Thame, Oxon

Sir, William Hague is correct: the triple lock in its present form must go. The simplest approach would be to link to prices only. If this was politically unacceptable then the greater of price and wage inflation could be retained, but with the comparison made over a slowly increasing period. Thus in any given future April the increase would be the greater of prices or wages since 2022, less increases already awarded up to that point.
Richard Bostock
London SE12

NHS sexual assault

Sir, Further to your report "I in 3 female surgeons assaulted by a colleague" (Sep 12), these incidents are not limited to surgery and occur through out all medical specialties. For years our organisation has highlighted the mistreatment of women in medicine, from misogyny and sexual discrimination to sexual assault. We are tired of being told "there is no problem" and "robust reporting systems are in place"— this is untrue. This steadfast denial makes change very difficult and contributes to the high attrition rate in women in hospital medicine. We would welcome a collaborative response to this survey. It should be from the top down, so we would welcome Amanda Pritchard's involvement as NHS chief executive.
Dr Kate Stannard
Co-founder, Women In Medicine International Network

Sir, When I entered postgraduate surgical training 40 years ago there was more overt sex discrimination, and from some surgeons a reluctance to take female surgical trainees seriously. It is deeply disappointing that as those barriers have been tackled, with entry to the profession now encouraged for women, sexual misconduct by male colleagues has come to the fore and is shockingly prevalent. Turning a blind eye to this has been tolerated for too long on the spurious grounds that "he's such a talented surgeon". The recommendations of the Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery must be implemented promptly otherwise the surgical profession and the NHS will both be diminished.
Jane McCue FRCS
Ret'd consultant Surgeon, Hertford

Sir, This "snowflake generation" of young doctors, largely female and selected on mainly academic excellence, clearly did not do their homework. Medical training and practice is brutal and demanding, with long hours, and bullying happens. Sexually inappropriate comments and actions do occur. It is stressful. All I can say is that if they want to make a success of this rewarding career then they should toughen up. Perhaps four A*s at A-level are not the answer to all the problems they will face.
Dr Peter Hilton
Consultant anaesthetist/intensivist 1986-2020; Haverfordwest

Martha's rule

Sir, The call by Martha Mills's parents call for easy access to a second opinion is understandable (letters, Sep 12) but I do not think, having worked in the NHS for 40 years, that this is the answer. My solution would be for hospitals to have patient advocates — compassionate, experienced and respected senior clinicians able to bridge the divide between distressed patients and their relatives and the responsible consultant and medical team. The fault line in these situations is so often poor communication on both sides.

The medical profession must also learn that there can be honourable retreat from a position of denial.
Roger Higson
GP (ret'd) and medical educator, Masham, N Yorks

Sir, Getting a second medical opinion raises the question: which of the two is better? This was resolved in the Royal Navy by the use of three chronometers for navigation: the two that agreed were used.
Henry Bennet-Clark
Clifton, Bristol

STRIKE BY CANAL BOATMEN

FROM THE TIMES SEPTEMBER 13, 1923

The canals are relatively so small a part of the transport system of the country that a strike of canal boatmen — they enjoy the dignified title of captains — has gone almost unnoticed, though it has continued nearly a month. The canal boatmen are a class very much apart from others. The conditions of their life set up a barrier of separation. They have a restless occupation and a moving home. They live on the boat, in the little cabin with the iron chimney at the stern. They stand on its doorstep to steer. It is the home not only of a man but usually of a family — the only home. On land they have no dwelling at all.

It is a roughish sort of life, inclined to be monotonous and devoid of ambitions. The "captain" has a crew. It consists of his wife and of the children who are old enough to lend a hand. If the man follows the horse, the wife steers. The cabin is a crowded and stuffy place at night, when the shelves that serve as tables by day are converted into beds. As likely as not the children sleep on the floor. An instance of a man, his wife, and seven or eight children, living in one boat and sleeping in its narrow cabin was recently brought to light. The children have little or no schooling. They, too, live apart from others.

During the summer the Transport and General Workers' Union put forward what was called a national programme for canal boatmen. It included stabilisation of wages and the gradual abolition of the "living-in" system. Present wages range downwards from £2 a week. The union foresees that the discontinuance of living-in would require increases of wages to enable the men to maintain comfortable, fixed homes. But this programme is not now under discussion. It had scarcely been launched when the largest firm of carriers gave notice of a demand to reduce wages by amounts ranging from a penny to fourpence a ton each trip. The men worked this out to mean a loss to them of from seven to as much as fifteen shillings a week. They refused the terms, and went on strike. About five hundred boats are idle. The canal transport industry is not in a prosperous state, but the men contend that they are being called upon to make too great a sacrifice. Efforts are being made to arrange a conference.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Maritime jewel

Sir, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, a British Overseas Territory, was once the site of industrial sealing and whaling, but is now more biodiverse than the Galapagos Islands. It is home to 100 million seabirds, including penguins, and a recovering seasonal population of tens of thousands of humpback, fin and blue whales.

However, only 23 per cent of the waters around the islands are fully protected from exploitation. This near-pristine and remote expanse in the South Atlantic Ocean is increasingly under threat from industrial fishing fleets on the hunt for krill, an integral part of the region's food chain. This year the British government must decide whether to increase protections around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Fully protecting these waters would mean that the UK is doing more than almost any other country in the world. We urge the foreign secretary to build on our strong record of leadership on marine conservation by acting to preserve more of this wonderful British Overseas Territory.
Sir Oliver Heald MP; Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park; Lord Randall of Uxbridge; Sir Robert Buckland MP; Philip Dunne MP; Caroline Ansell MP
Further signatories can be seen at thetimes.co.uk/letters

Ban bully breed

Sir, The Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991 requires all specified types to be registered, neutered , microchipped and to be muzzled in public (report, Sep 12). The American Bully XL surely qualifies as a specified breed. Why is this act so seldom enforced? It is also illegal to crop dogs' ears in this country. If these laws were observed, there would be far less likelihood of savage dog attacks on humans.
Alan G Shearer
Newlands, Glasgow

Wind of change

Sir, Obviously Ann Treneman (Sep 9) and Lucy Johnson (letter, Sep 12) don't live too near wind turbines. We are 3 miles from ours and when the wind is blowing towards us, which is quite often, it is dreadful. The whirring just goes on and on and on. And now more, even bigger, are proposed on the other side of the house.
Carol Gilmour
Altass, Sutherland

Red letter day

Sir, Gillian Grigor (letter, Sep 12) might have faith in the Royal Mail but we don't at the moment. We had one delivery last week, our first for about ten days, and none so far this week. It was my husband's birthday last Tuesday and he's received one card in the post so far.
Yvonne Bailey
Christian Malford, Wilts

Peak pint

Sir, The pubs charging more at peak times (report, Sep 12) would look better if they spun the story to say they were charging less at quiet times.
Stephen Dolphin
Tolleshunt Major, Essex

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

Daily Universal Register

UK: The IPPR think tank publishes a report arguing that the NHS requires once-in-a-generation reform to prevent rising costs and end "second-rate" care.

Nature notes



Healthy farmland hedges are easy to spot in September. Standing somewhere between 15 and 25ft high (and as wide as they are tall), they will be packed with fruit and feeding birds. Halos of butterflies and insects will be feasting on brambles and ivy. They probably won't have been cut for two or three years. Unfortunately, many of our hedges are annually flailed into waist-high bonsai bushes. Worryingly, the government is consulting on the few protections hedgerows currently enjoy. The fear is that our estate of hedges (a national treasure) will become further degraded, deepening the famine faced by our native wildlife. Have your say before the consultation closes on September 20. JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Stella McCartney, *pictured*, fashion designer, 52; **Óscar Arias Sánchez**, president, Costa Rica (1986-90, 2006-10), awarded the Nobel peace prize (1987), 83; **Amma Asante**, film-maker, *Belle* (2013), and chancellor, Norwich University of the Arts, 54; **Barbara Bain**, actress, *Mission: Impossible* (1966-69), 92; **Jacqueline Bisset**, actress, *Bullitt* (1968), 79; **Peter Cetera**, musician, Chicago, *If You Leave Me Now* (1976), 79; **David Clayton-Thomas**, musician, Blood, Sweat & Tears, *Spinning Wheel* (1969), 82; **Prof Linda Colley**, historian and author, *The Gun, the Ship and the Pen* (2021), 74; **Lord (Neil) Davidson of Glen Clova**, KC, advocate general for Scotland (2006-10), 73; **Bobby Davro**, impressionist, 65; **Anne Devlin**, playwright, *After Easter* (1994), 72; **Domenico Dolce**, fashion designer, Dolce & Gabbana, 65; **Alain Ducasse**, chef, Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester (three Michelin stars), 67; **Niall FitzGerald KBE**, chairman, British Museum (2006-14), deputy chairman, Thomson Reuters (2008-2011), 78; **John W Henry**, businessman, principal owner of Liverpool FC, 74; **Arek Hersh**, Holocaust survivor, educator and writer, *A Detail of History* (1998), 95; **Goran Ivanisevic**, tennis player, Wimbledon champion (2001), 52; **Michael Johnson**, athlete, four-time Olympic track and field gold medalist (1992, 1996, 2000), 56; **Dame Eleanor King**, lady justice of appeal, chairwoman of the Judicial College, 66; **Dame Carolyn McCall**, chief executive, ITV, easyJet (2010-17), 62; **Bongbong Marcos**, president of the Philippines, 66; **Lord (Colin) Moynihan**, chairman, British Olympic Association (2005-2012), minister for sport (1987-90), 68; **Robin Smith**, cricketer, England (1988-96), 60; **Zak Starkey**, drummer, the Who, 58; **Christopher Woodward**, director, Garden Museum, London, 54.

On this day

In **1956** the technology company IBM introduced the first supercomputer with a hard disk drive, the IBM 305 Ramac. It weighed more than a ton.

The last word

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it … with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present." Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor AD161-180, *Meditations*, translated by Maxwell Staniforth (1964)

The Begging Bowl

Putin's summit with Kim Jong-un is a meeting of desperate men. Russia needs arms and North Korea needs food. Ukraine has nothing to gain from such diplomacy

President Putin's meeting with Kim Jong-un, the dictator of North Korea, is an attempt by two desperate men to shore up each other against a growing crisis in each country. Mr Putin is seeking as many weapons as he can get from Mr Kim's munitions factories and his massive store of ageing Soviet armaments. Mr Kim wants Moscow's help to feed a nation on the brink of starvation and determined to break out of its crippling diplomatic isolation. Both want support in their growing confrontations with the West.

For both leaders, the urgency has ended a long spell of self-isolation. Mr Putin has rarely left the Kremlin, prevented from travelling to many countries by an international arrest warrant for war crimes and still reluctant to appear in public after the pandemic. Mr Kim, who has only just opened North Korea's borders after the pandemic, has long relied more on China than on Russia for economic and diplomatic support. His long train ride to Russia instead of China certainly appears a snub to Beijing, which has been pointedly cool in its comments about the visit. Lingering resentment over international sanctions against North Korea to curb its nuclear programme, supported by both Moscow and Beijing, may also swirl beneath the secretive relations between the three.

Not surprisingly, Mr Putin used the meeting to make bizarre new accusations against the West. He accused Britain of orchestrating an attempted attack by Ukrainian special forces on a Russian atomic facility, saying it was probably planned by Washington without Rishi Sunak's knowledge. He also said that Donald Trump's prosecution in the US was politically motivated and showed the "rottenness" of the American political system. He applauded Mr Trump's claim that he could end the war in Ukraine within a day, saying that it would bring happiness — an endorsement that may not necessarily help Trump's re-election campaign.

The real purpose of the meeting, however, was to hold out a begging bowl to North Korea for the only thing one of the world's poorest countries has to give: enough weapons to replenish Russia's stocks after its vast materiel losses in the 19-month war in Ukraine. Mr Kim will probably open his store of older Soviet-era artillery shells and rockets, though he may seek in return Russian spy satellites and help to build nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarines. The Russian military, however, may not be so forthcoming with such sensitive technologies. Instead, Mr Kim will be offered enough food and energy to alleviate the crisis that the pandemic caused in North Korea.

To a large degree, the meeting with Mr Kim hides Moscow's diplomatic failure. Russia had intended the visit to follow the Vladivostok forum. This economic conference, where the two leaders last met in 2019, once included President Xi of China and high-level delegations from Japan and South Korea. It was to be Russia's answer to Davos. Instead, few national leaders took part this year, marking another gathering promoted by Russia that only underlined the global embarrassment of being hosted by Mr Putin — as African leaders found in St Petersburg recently.

Those who did attend heard Mr Putin indicate, at length, that Russia was prepared for a long war in Ukraine. He said in reply to offers of potential mediators that Russia could not stop fighting when it faced a Ukrainian counter-offensive, and that Kyiv would use any cessation in hostilities to replenish its resources. Ukraine would not talk peace until it was exhausted, he said. His belligerence should be noted. On one hand, it betrayed a note of desperation that things are going poorly for Russia on the battle front. On the other, it showed that any western diplomacy to explore a peace deal now is a waste of time. Diplomacy can use force as part of its armoury. At the moment, that is the only diplomacy that will have any effect in Moscow.

Daylight Robbery

An epidemic of shoplifting is killing retailers and city centres. It must be stopped

Shoplifting now costs Britain nearly £1 billion a year. The number of cases has risen by a quarter this year, running at some eight million — double the number in 2017. Last month hundreds of teenagers turned up in Oxford Street, central London, intent on robbing JD Sports having been urged online to put on balaclavas and take part in a looting spree. The boss of the Co-Op says retail crime is "out of control", with almost 1,000 incidents every day. But the number of people being charged has collapsed. A decade ago it was more than 80,000 a year; last year it was just over 21,000. This is lawlessness out of control.

Shoplifting is now barely even considered a crime. Over 13 years of Conservative government it has been effectively decriminalised. The police no longer bother to respond to reports of gangs looting stores or notorious shoplifters walking out with goods concealed in their clothing. The crime was officially downgraded in 2014, when the stealing of goods worth less than £200 was recategorised in a government act as a summary offence, punishable often by a fine of only £70, but still entailing a criminal record. The aim of the change was to relieve pressure on the police. Little wonder that organised criminal gangs are now systematically sending thieves into big stores, before selling the stolen goods online.

Shoplifting has also increased as a result of inflation and the rise in the cost of living. But it is not a harmless offence, as its apologists argue in an attempt to blame the government for policies that force low-income earners into poverty. The result is that big stores are closing outlets where shoplifting rates are high. Other stores have started to lock up even small items such as cosmetics and medication behind plexiglass, employ security guards and install metal detectors to spot knives. Costs are up, sales are down and business is lost to online retailers. For small family shops the threat is more dangerous. Those trying to stop thieves brazenly sweeping goods off the shelves may be assaulted or stabbed. The police rarely even look at CCTV recordings.

Ten of Britain's biggest retailers are now to fund a police "Project Pegasus" to crack down on shoplifting, and forces will run CCTV of shoplifting through their database. The epidemic is even more dramatic in the US. Supermarkets and grocers in New York put their losses to theft at about $300 million a year, and across the country it costs retailers almost $100 billion.

More than anything, petty crime angers and alarms the public, especially if government and the police appear to regard it with insouciance. Seeing staff in shops wearing body cams and insisting on airport-style security underlines fears of social breakdown, deters people from going to city centres, increases a sense that Britain's streets are neither peaceful nor safe. Research has often found that where minor crimes go unpunished, a sense of impunity takes hold that encourages more serious crimes of violence. Suella Braverman, the home secretary, has called for those organising the mass assault on JD Sports to be hunted down and locked up. That might send a signal, but it will not be enough. The government and police need to insist that shoplifting is theft, every bit as serious as stealing from private homes. Shops are not cash-cows for organised gangs. A Conservative government should understand that and take action now.

Smoke Signals

Vapes do not need to be fruity and disposable to save lives

Disposable vapes are an environmental disaster. Every week, in the UK alone, an estimated five million are thrown away. Each includes a lithium battery, and they account for roughly a third of all batteries that end up in our rubbish bins. Their spread has multiplied fourfold in a year.

That alone would be enough to prompt curbs on their sale and use. But disposable vapes may also be a looming social disaster. Recent studies suggest that 11.16 percent of children between 11 and 17 have tried vaping. More than a fifth of all 15-year-old girls are thought to vape regularly. Teachers speak of children so addicted to nicotine that they struggle to concentrate in lessons. France announced a ban on disposable vapes last week, and the Scottish government plans to follow the French example. Now the Department of Health is reported to be considering the same.

It is important to remember that vapes also save lives. Rates of smoking have plunged in the UK in recent years, particularly among children. In 1996, the NHS estimated that 49 per cent of children had tried smoking; that figure now is 12 per cent. Among adults, a similar percentage now smoke regularly, the lowest proportion since records began. Many former smokers now vape instead, and others smoke less because they vape too. Eliminating vaping altogether would almost certainly cause smoking to rise.

The benefits remain possible, however, with a ban on single-use vapes. Rechargeable devices are no different to use. Feasibly, children who have to plug in will find it hard to conceal the habit from their parents. The next consideration should be the bright packaging and fruity flavours through which the makers of vapes aim to present their products as something akin to confectionary. For help in ceasing smoking, they are unnecessary. As ploys to lure the young, they are indefensible.

World

‘Pariah’ Putin turns to Kim for

Russia rolls out the red carpet as the leaders prepare for talks about a potential arms deal, **Marc Bennetts** writes



President Putin lashed out at Britain and praised Donald Trump. He is expected to meet Kim Jong-un today, possibly at the Vostochny spaceport in the far east of Russia

North Korea’s dictator arrived in Russia for talks on supplying it with weapons as President Putin accused Britain of trying to provoke a Kremlin attack on a Ukrainian nuclear power plant.

Kim Jong-un was given a red-carpet welcome by Russian officials, along with a military band and guard of honour, in Khasan, a Russian town near the North Korean border.

The Kremlin said that Kim and Putin would meet after an economic forum in Vladivostok, in Russia’s far east, which ends today. Both seem determined to ignore warnings from Washington that any delivery of North Korean weapons to the Russian military in Ukraine would be a “huge mistake”.

The White House has also threatened to impose additional sanctions on North Korea if the deal goes through.

“The interests of our two countries are important to us, and not warnings from Washington,” Dmitry Peskov, Putin’s spokesman, said.

Nuclear-armed North Korea has emerged as one of Russia’s staunchest allies since Putin ordered tanks into Ukraine last year, creating the biggest conflict in Europe since 1945.

The isolated state is said to possess tens of millions of artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet-era designs that could be used to refill Moscow’s depleted arsenal after 18 months of fighting in Ukraine.

Russia’s military fired about 12 million artillery shells in Ukraine last year alone, according to the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank. The Kremlin’s munitions factories are able to turn out about 2.5 million shells a year.

Peskov said that Sergei Shoigu, the Russian defence minister, would also be involved in the talks with Kim. Shoigu travelled to Pyongyang to meet the dictator in July, a trip widely seen as preparing the ground for his meeting this week with Putin.

Kim is being accompanied on his visit to Russia by senior government officials, including his foreign minister, Choe Son-hui, and Jo Chun-ryong, who is in charge of North Korea’s munitions industry. He is expected to request access to Russian satellite and nuclear submarine technology in exchange for any arms deliveries.

He may also be seeking food and energy assistance for North Korea’s struggling economy.

Pro-Kremlin analysts have suggested that Russia could also withdraw its support for United Nations sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear weapons programme.

Putin lashed out at Britain yesterday, alleging — without providing evidence — that its secret services were behind what he said was a Ukrainian attempt to cripple power lines at a Russian nuclear power station. Putin said the alleged plot had come to light after Ukrainian “saboteurs” captured by Russian forces had confessed during interrogations. “Do they understand what they are playing with?” Putin asked. “Are they trying to provoke us into retaliating against Ukrainian atomic power stations? Does the British prime minister know what his secret services are doing in Ukraine?”

He insisted his claim was the “total, absolute, pure truth”.

Putin accused Britain of “underestimating” the possible consequences of its alleged actions, which he suggested may have been overseen by Washington without Rishi Sunak’s knowledge. Downing Street has not commented.

Putin did not specify which atomic facility he was referring to, but Russian forces have occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine for more than a year. Moscow claims the entire Zaporizhzhia region as its territory.

Kim and Putin may meet as early as today at the Vostochny spaceport, which is also in Russia’s vast, far-east region. Putin is due to visit the facility, and Kim’s slow-moving train was heading in that direction yesterday.

However, Putin declined to reveal his plans. “When I get there, you will know,” he said.

He had words of support for Donald Trump, claiming that the former US president’s prosecution on various charges, including election interference and hush payments of hush money, was politically motivated. “[This shows] the rottenness of the American political system,” Putin said.

He praised Trump’s promise to end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours if he is elected president next year. “This cannot but bring happiness,” Putin said.

Trump has said that he will tell President Zelensky to “make a deal” with Russia if he returns to the White House, a comment that has been met with scorn in Kyiv.

Western officials have described the Kremlin’s pivot towards North Korea as a sign of desperation in Moscow. “Having to travel across the length of his own country to meet with an international pariah to ask for assistance in a war that he expected to win in the opening month — I would characterise it as him begging for assistance,” Matthew Miller, a US state department spokesman, said.

The French foreign ministry made similar comments, adding: “Russia is isolated to the point of being forced to turn to North Korea.”

General Sir Jim Hockenhull, commander of British strategic command, described the Russia-North Korea alliance as a “coalition of the desperate”. He said that any North Korean military assistance was unlikely to make a decisive contribution to the war in Ukraine.

“The rolodex of partners for Russia is a lot smaller than Ukraine’s. That’s why you’re seeing Russia reach out to pariah states like North Korea, as opposed to the wider choice being made by lots of nations opposing Putin’s illegal invasion,” he said.

The war in Ukraine has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced millions and flattened towns and cities across the country. However, Putin shows no sign of wanting to seek a ceasefire, boasting yesterday that more than a quarter of a million Russian men had volunteered to fight in Ukraine in the past six months. The claim could not be verified.

Putin also said that Russia was working on weapons that were based on “new physical principles”. He did not elaborate but state media said they include laser, ultrasonic and radio-frequency weapons.

Colonel General Andrey Mordvichev, who was recently promoted by Putin, told Russian state television earlier that the war in Ukraine was likely to be “just the start” of a wider war in Europe between Russia and western countries.

Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, called for the total mobilisation of Russian society to support the war effort. Speaking in St Petersburg yesterday he said that Russia was locked in a battle for its survival against “the forces of evil”.

Kirill, one of Putin’s closest allies, said: “We need the mobilisation of everyone: the military and political forces. And, of course, the church must be mobilised, first of all, in order to pray for our authorities, the army, but also in order to be there, at the forefront [of the fighting].”

Hundreds of individual priests have spoken out against the war in Ukraine but the Russian Orthodox Church has clamped down on dissent within the clergy. It has labelled pacifism a “heretical” belief, and at least two priests who replaced the word “victory” with “peace” in a prayer written by Kirill have been banned from holding church services.

Kim as a go-between spells trouble for Europe, Roger Boyes, page 22
This summit is a meeting of desperate men, leading article, page 25



All aboard … for pink sofas and fine wines

It is said that inside Kim Jong-un’s armoured train, used by North Korea’s leaders for generations, you will find long rows of pink leather sofas, a karaoke room and cases of fine French wine (Gavin Blair writes).

The 21-carriage “moving fortress” is bulletproof and has steel-plated walls and floors to protect against explosives. It has attack weapons and a helicopter “for escape in case of emergency”, according to South Korea. It is also excruciatingly slow: Kim’s trip to Vietnam to meet President Trump in 2019 took 65 hours.

Kim Il-sung, his grandfather and North Korea’s founder, was presented with a luxury carriage by Joseph Stalin in the 1950s, spawning the family love for railways.

Kim Jong-il, who succeeded him, had a fear of flying and took a three-week train trip to Moscow to meet President Putin in 2001. A book about the 12,500-mile round trip released the following year, titled *Orient Express*, gave an insight into life on board a Kim train, including being served lobsters and cases of Bordeaux flown in from Paris.

“It was possible to order any dish of Russian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and French cuisine,” recalled the author, Konstantin Pulikovsky.

Kim Jong-il had several lavishly equipped trains and is believed to have died of a heart attack aboard one in 2011. Kim Jong-un and his entourage are said to still be able to order the kind of gourmet meals his father enjoyed and be treated to live music.

Carrying as much weight as it does, the train has a top speed of about 30mph while in North Korea, and 50mph when it travels on China’s tracks.

It has to change wheels and then be pulled by a local locomotive when it crosses into Russia because

Speaker calls for Biden impeachment inquiry
Page 28

10,000 feared dead in Libyan flash floods
Page 29

help in war

KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP; GETTY IMAGES







Kim Jong-un leaving Pyongyang for his journey over the Russian border in his luxurious train, which has a top speed of 30mph in North Korea

the gauges are different — but for Kim the inconvenience appears to be worth it.

The train offers improved security compared with air travel, enough room for meetings to plan strategy on the way to summits, and greater luxury.

Some say that Kim also feels that arriving by train gives him gravitas and sets him apart from other national leaders.

Caribbean nations will seek $33 trillion slavery payouts from Europe

Caribbean
Will Pavia New York

Caribbean nations will seek $33 trillion from European governments and an apology for their role in the transatlantic slave trade as part of a new push for reparations.

A bloc of 15 Caribbean states hopes to begin negotiating with Britain, France, Spain and Denmark over a ten-point plan that would include a formal apology, funding for health and education and the cancellation of debt and direct payments to their governments.

Britain owes $19.6 trillion, Spain $6.3 trillion and France $6.5 trillion, according to a report produced by an American consulting firm that sought to calculate legal damages for the enslavement of 19 million people over four centuries.

Verene Shepherd, a Jamaican professor of history and vice-chairwoman of the reparations commission for Caricom, a political and economic union of the 15 states, said that while it was almost impossible to calculate the true extent of the damage caused by the slave trade, the figures provided a starting point for negotiations. "The crime is huge," she said. "The responsibility for what happened is huge."

Caricom established a reparations commission in 2013 and began making approaches to the former colonial powers on reparations. "We didn't get a positive response to our letters," Shepherd said.

Despite that, support for the idea has strengthened in the Caribbean.

Some have suggested that reparations be pursued through the courts in the countries targeted. A London firm was consulted, but Shepherd said that Caribbean leaders had instructed the reparations commission to first seek negotiations.

A second round of letters to European governments has been drafted but not yet sent. "We are trying negotiations. We are trying lobbying, through the United Nations."

Shepherd said the group had also chosen to seek "a development approach" rather than cash payments to people whose ancestors were enslaved, the path taken by reparations campaigners in the United States.

After Britain abolished slavery in the 1830s it paid £20 million in compensation to 46,000 former slaveholders, a colossal sum at the time.

Peter Espeut, dean of studies at a seminary college in Kingston and a columnist for the Jamaican newspaper The Gleaner, said: "By giving slave owners compensation for the loss of their property, they set a precedent. If you compensated the owners for the loss of their property surely you should also compensate the slaves for the loss of their freedom."



King Willem-Alexander has apologised for the Netherlands' role in slavery. Below: Verene Shepherd

He was sceptical of the idea that reparations should be paid to Caribbean governments, including that of Jamaica, said to be owed $9.5 trillion, a figure calculated by the consulting firm Brattle and included in the report. "When Jamaica became independent, the British government handed us a national debt of zero," he said. "Any debt that Jamaica may currently have is arguably not the result of slavery or colonialism but malfeasance on the part of the Jamaican government."

If the reparations were to come in the form of cash for development, Britain and the European Union could argue that they had been "paying reparations for decades" in the form of development aid, he added.

Espeut remains an advocate of reparations but says the money is owed to the descendants of former slaves, not to the government, which was "trying to steal poor black people's money by making this claim".

Most European governments have resisted the idea of reparations. Asked in the Commons in April if he would agree to offer an apology "and commit to reparatory justice, Rishi Sunak said no, as "trying to unpick our history is not the right way forward".

Shepherd said that development aid did not count as reparations as the money often came in the form of loans, or with conditions attached. Britain had left her former colonies in a parlous state at independence, she said.

She quoted a statement by a Labour MP named Arthur Creech Jones who served on the Colonial Office's Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies, who said in 1939 that "criminal neglect" had allowed Caribbean islands to sink into "hopeless squalour" and misery. Shepherd said: "If that's not an admission of guilt I don't know what is."

Most European governments had not offered more than a "statement of regret", she said. The King of the Netherlands offered a formal apology recently, as had members of the Gladstone and Trevelyan families.

Some European groups had sought to help, Shepherd added. A group in Switzerland "are sending information to us about how Switzerland was involved" by selling navigational instruments used by slave ships, while a group in Sweden was contributing evidence of how the country provided iron for manacles used on plantations.

"We are gathering the information which is the proof of how countries are associated with this crime against humanity."



Town's terror as crocodiles escape farm

China
Richard Spencer
China Correspondent

More than 70 crocodiles escaped from a farm in southern China as strong rains and floods continue to sweep the region.

A lake containing the crocodiles at a commercial crocodile farm in Maoming, in the southern province of Guangdong, was flooded by the last vestiges of Typhoon Haikui, which hit the area last week.

The farm said that 69 adult crocodiles and six of their young had managed to swim through the floods to freedom.

At least eight had been recaptured by yesterday afternoon but most remained on the loose in one of the most densely populated regions in the world.

Videos shared on social media showed crocodiles lurking in shallow waters by the sides of roads near the village of Peng Cun.

State-run media showed images of rescue workers wearing red scouring the floodwaters in boats for the animals. Local residents were warned to stay inside.

It was reported that some of the crocodiles had been shot rather than being allowed to remain at large, but that others were sheltering in deep water, out of reach.

Typhoon Haikui brought with it the heaviest rainfall in Hong Kong since records began. Seven people were killed in the city and on the mainland and three have been reported missing.

Crocodiles are farmed for both their meat and their skin in China. The farm in Maoming is said to be the country's largest. Fashion houses buy crocodile skin for handbags, shoes and wallets.

MUSTAFA UNAL UYSAL/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; MERT GOKHAN KOC/AP



Caver rescued after 12 days underground

An American explorer trapped for 12 days in a Turkish cave was finally brought to the surface by a team of 200 rescuers (Alistair Dawber writes).

Mark Dickey, 40, developed stomach problems on August 31 as he explored the Morca cave, a remote complex of passageways in the Taurus mountains in southern Turkey, prompting a complicated underground rescue operation.

"Mark Dickey was removed from the last exit of the cave," the Turkish Caving Federation said on Monday night, adding that the "cave rescue part of the operation has ended successfully".

The cave, the third deepest in Turkey, reaches nearly four fifths of a mile below ground. Dickey fell ill at a depth of 3,675 feet.

The rescue team, made up of medics and other explorers, began pulling him to safety after first giving him infusions of blood.

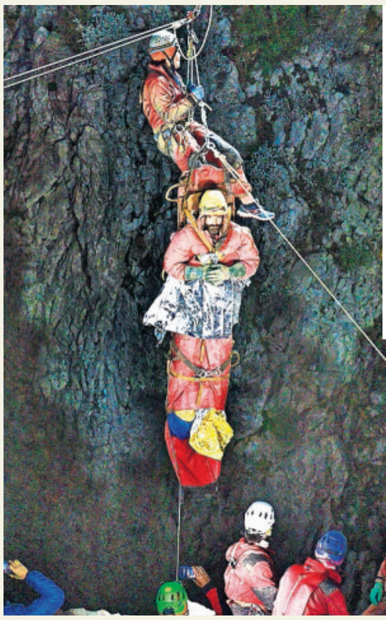
"He is in good health in general," Cenk Yildiz, head of the local branch of the Turkish emergency response service, said. "He continues to be fed with liquids. We have resolved his stomach bleeding issues with plasma and serum support."

The rescuers, most of them from Turkey, Croatia and Italy, worked tirelessly for nine days to save Dickey.

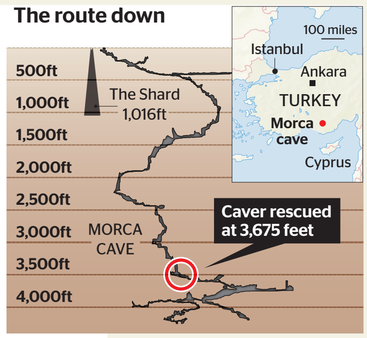
Video from previous phases of the operation showed a prone Dickey lying inside the cave and receiving treatment by a medical team.

He said in a video message: "The quick response of the Turkish government to get the medical supplies that I needed saved my life."

The European Cave Rescue Association said Dickey, from New York, was an experienced explorer and cave specialist with a medical background.



Mark Dickey shares his relief with members of the rescue team after finally being lifted from the Morca cave complex in Turkey



Showdown in top court over divisive law change

Israel
Anshel Pfeffer

The Israeli Supreme Court was presented with a series of petitions yesterday against contentious legislation passed by Binyamin Netanyahu's government aimed at weakening its authority.

The proceedings, which lasted for more than 13 hours, are regarded as the most fundamental clash between parliamentary and judicial powers in Israel's 75-year history.

The hearing took place after eight months of street protests and civil unrest over an issue that has deeply divided Israel, with President Herzog warning of "civil war". Critics claim the government's move would undermine the court and Israeli democracy.

For the first time, the Supreme Court had all of its 15 judges on the bench to consider the petitions on a law passed by Netanyahu's coalition in July, which cancelled the "reasonableness standard", a key tool used by the court to hold the government to account. This is the only part of the government's "legal reform" agenda to have been passed.

During the hearing, Esther Hayut, president of the Supreme Court, told Aner Helman, who is representing the attorney-general, that there would need to be a "mortal blow" to democracy for the court to justify striking down a so-called basic law, made by the Israeli parliament. "We can't nullify 'basic laws' every other day," Hayut said.

Helman said that the reasonableness law represented "a major blow to the rule of law; it's dramatic".

Judges have used the reasonableness standard to prevent government decisions regarded as unsound or corrupt.

Yariv Levin, the justice minister, who has been leading the reform and is a staunch opponent of the Supreme Court, criticised the judges in a statement before the hearing began. He said: "The hearing taking place … without any authority is a mortal blow to democracy and the standing of the Knesset."

His supporters stood outside the court as the petitioners arrived carrying crates of bananas and claiming: "The court is making Israel a banana republic." Anti-government protesters were out in force too. The judges are expected to deliver their rulings in the coming weeks.

Biden will face impeachment inquiry

United States
Alistair Dawber Washington

The Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives has called for an impeachment inquiry into President Biden, arguing that it is the "logical next step" in an investigation that has spent months attempting to tie the president to the business dealings of his son.

Kevin McCarthy claimed that parallel investigations by two House committees had uncovered enough evidence of financial wrongdoing by the Biden family to justify a formal process.

"I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden," he told reporters on the House's first day back after its summer recess.

"Over the past several months, House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct — a culture of corruption."

The move will make it easier for those leading the investigations to obtain family bank statements and other financial records. An inquiry could then recommend that Biden is formally impeached, which would require a majority vote in the House.

James Comer, the chairman of the House oversight committee, and Jim Jordan, the head of the judiciary committee, have been investigating Biden and his son, Hunter, since the Republicans took control of Congress's lower chamber at the start of the year. They both allege that the president has used his influence over a number of years to further the younger Biden's business career, particularly in Ukraine and China. The president and his son are also accused of accepting millions of dollars in payments, which those leading the investigations claim amount to accepting bribes.



Kevin McCarthy is a key ally of Donald Trump

There are "allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption" McCarthy said as he urged the president to cooperate with the inquiry. "We will go where the evidence takes us."

McCarthy is unlikely to demand a vote to begin an inquiry formally, with moderates calling on him instead to concentrate on what they say are more substantive matters. Instead Comer's committee will begin the inquiry and will then be expected to present its findings to the House.

The White House has said the investigations are designed to distract from the criminal charges facing Donald Trump. The former president has been charged with 91 offences this year.

White House spokesman Ian Sams said in a statement last night that months of investigation by House Republicans had "proved that … the president hasn't done anything wrong".

"They have no evidence, so they're launching the next phase of their evidence-free goose chase simply to throw red meat to the right wing so they can continue baselessly attacking the president to play extreme politics," he said.

The committees are yet to unearth any direct evidence linking the president and his son's business dealings and a number of leading House Republicans have questioned whether they would back an impeachment vote. Others, such as Matt Gaetz, the representative for Florida and a vocal member of the freedom caucus, say they will seek to remove McCarthy as Speaker if he is seen to be standing in the way of an impeachment inquiry.

Congress has the power to impeach public officials for treason, bribery and "other high crimes and misdemeanours". The articles of impeachment are formally laid before the House, which can adopt them by a simple majority. The Republicans hold a slim majority in the lower chamber.

Once impeached, the Senate holds a trial, with a two-thirds majority needed to convict, unlikely under Democrat control.

Biden's latest public approval rating is 42 per cent, its highest level since March, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed.

10,000 feared dead as flash flood sweeps city streets into the sea

AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ESAM OMRAN AL-FETORI/REUTERS



The rushing floodwater wreaked havoc, washing away cars and whole buildings. The city is the sphere of influence of Khalifa Haftar, below, who captured it in 2019

Libya

Tom Kington

The death toll from a devastating flash flood which washed a quarter of the coastal city of Derna into the Mediterranean has reached at least 3,000, with 10,000 feared to have perished, officials have said.

The city was engulfed by water in the early hours of Monday after Storm Daniel dumped nearly 16 inches of rain on eastern Libya, causing two dams above the city to collapse. A torrent of water roared along a dry valley in the centre of the city, gouging out a 50m-wide swathe of destruction through buildings and streets on either side.

"Bodies are now being counted as the water recedes. It's far more appalling than the videos on social media show," said Abdulkader Assad, a political editor at The Libya Observer.

As emergency teams arrived yesterday to help residents search for survivors, Othman Abduljaleel, the health minister in the Benghazi-based government which runs eastern Libya, said the number of victims had reached at least 3,000.

He predicted the final death toll would reach 10,000. "The situation in the city of Derna is becoming more tragic and there are no final statistics on the number of victims," he said.

Tamer Ramadan, head of a Red Cross and Red Crescent delegation, said the death toll in the city of 100,000 people would be "huge".

The emergency was "as devastating as the situation in Morocco", he said, referring to the earthquake that struck Marrakesh on Friday night.

Raja Sassi, 39, a Derna resident, said he had managed to escape with his wife and small daughter when water surged to an upper floor of his apartment building, but the rest of his family had died. "At first we just thought it was heavy rain but at midnight we heard a huge explosion and it was the dam bursting," he said.

His wife, Nouriya al-Hasadi, 31, who held their daughter close as the waters rose, said it was "miraculous" that they had survived.

Video posted on social media showed pavements lined with corpses.

Hichem Chkiouat, Benghazi's minister of civil aviation, said that more than 1,000 bodies had already been recovered. "I returned from Derna. It is very disastrous. Bodies are lying everywhere — in the sea, in the valleys, under the buildings," he said. "I am not exaggerating when I say that 25 per cent of the city has disappeared. Many, many buildings have collapsed."

Johr Ali, an Istanbul-based freelance journalist and Derna native, said that friends of his living in the city had visited a hospital packed with 700 corpses as they searched for missing relatives.

"The bodies cannot be identified because they are so caked in mud, and the smell is unbearable because there was no electricity," he said. "I am hearing accounts like that of the 35 members of the al-Sheikh family, who lived together in one building and all died when the building was hit by the flood."

Libya is run by rival administrations controlling the east and west of the country, after years of civil conflict that began with the ousting of the dictator Colonel Gaddafi in 2011.

The self-styled Marshal Khalifa Haftar, the warlord who dominates the east, laid siege to Derna in 2017 and captured it in 2019. Since then, he has treated the city with suspicion.

"Derna is still devastated by the war, which destroyed many areas of the city," said Abdulkader Assad.

Rescue teams from Italy and Turkey and military personnel from Egypt arrived in the country yesterday to join the search for survivors, while Libya's state energy company sent helicopters and an aid ship from Tripoli to dock in Derna, circumventing roads damaged by the water.

The flash flooding also claimed several victims in other towns along the coast.

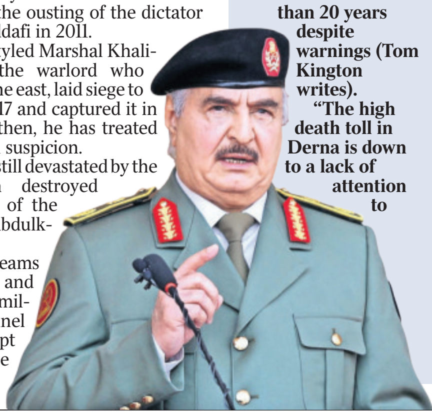
The UN-recognised western administration in Tripoli sent an aid flight with 14 tonnes of supplies and 87 medical personnel, despite its bitter rivalry with the Benghazi government.

Johr Ali said he was comforting a Derna native living in Turkey whose wife and two-year-old son had recently returned to the city to visit his father, mother, three brothers and sister. They lived in the area flattened by the flood.

"He has discovered the building they lived in is no longer there. He is shaking, preparing for the worst, hoping for the best," he said.

James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, said last night: "My thoughts are with all those affected by the catastrophic flooding in eastern Libya. The UK stands ready to provide assistance.

"We are in contact with the Libyan authorities and the UN to urgently assess what support we can provide to help the Libyan people at this tragic time."



Behind the story

Two dams in Libya that burst in the early hours of Monday, sending a wall of water through the coastal city of Derna and killing thousands, had not been maintained for more than 20 years despite warnings (Tom Kington writes).

"The high death toll in Derna is down to a lack of attention to these dams, which were last given a maintenance check in 2002 — so people are going to start demanding to know who was in charge here," Mohamed Eljarh, a managing partner at Libya Desk Consulting, said.

In a report released last year by Libya's Sebha University, experts claimed the 1970s-built dams had "high potential for flood risk" and that "periodic maintenance" was essential.

The intensity of the storm that swept through Libya has been blamed on climate change, but the claims about the dam suggest human error played a role in the death toll. "Given the warnings about the dams, given the damage the storm had done to Greece, why was Derna not evacuated?" Eljarh said.

A decade of conflict in Libya, in which Marshal Khalifa Haftar, a military strongman, laid siege to Derna before conquering it in 2019 to oust Islamic militants, had led to vital infrastructure being ignored, he added.

Malak Altaeb, an environmental consultant, said lives might have been spared if the dams had been partially opened before the storm. "There was just a lack of awareness by [the] authorities," she said.

Paris rocked as lab-grown diamonds make the cut at jewellery store

France

Adam Sage Paris

Lab-grown diamonds are enjoying success in the US, where they are popular for engagement rings. They are booming in India, too, which is exporting them in ever greater quantities.

Among the luxury jewellers of the ultra-chic Place Vendôme in Paris, however, the assumption was that they would make no headway. Now that assumption has been shattered by Fred, the Parisian jeweller, which has decided to break with tradition by selling a set that features synthetic 0.5 carat blue diamonds along with natural white ones. The set includes a €240,000 necklace, a bracelet that costs €180,000, and a ring at €70,000.

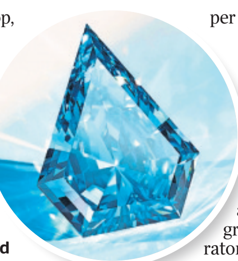
French fashion critics were stunned. Le Point called the initiative an "earthquake", while Le Figaro said: "We didn't think we would see this any time soon."

Ever since General Electric claims to have made the first synthetic diamonds in 1954, their quality has been improving and they are now said to be indistinguishable from mined diamonds to the naked eye.

Fred, which is part of the LVMH luxury goods group, believes that it has taken the process to a higher plane after calling in experts from America and Europe to make diamonds in a laboratory using chemical vapour deposition technology. The stones, which have the same chemical properties as natural diamonds, took several years to research and 18 months to develop, according to Charles Leung, the company's chief executive.

He told Le Figaro he had decided to make blue diamonds because they are extremely rare in nature — accounting for 0.01 per cent of the total.

Leung played down claims that lab-grown stones were about to take over, saying they would remain the exception at Fred. Yet his initiative is likely to cause concern in a diamond industry already worried by the growing influence of laboratories.



A blue diamond created for the luxury jeweller Fred

Polish party snubs Scholz in attack ad

Poland
Emma Yeomans

Poland's ruling conservative party has made an election video in which the party leader pretends to reject a phone call from Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, in an apparent attempt to build anti-German sentiment before elections in October.

In the video on Twitter/X, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of the Law and Justice Party, receives a call from a spoof German ambassador who says that Scholz would like to speak to him about the retirement age. Kaczynski replies that the matter will be decided by the Polish people in a referendum. "Tusk isn't here any more, and those habits are over," he says, then pretends to hang up.

It targets the main rival, Civic Platform and its leader, Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister and EU president, who had a friendly relationship with Germany. Tusk raised the retirement age before Law and Justice came to power and reversed it.

NGUYEN MINH TUAN/SOLENT NEWS



Casting a reflection Fishermen stand on stilts as they throw out their nets at sunrise at Quang Lang beach in Thai Binh, Vietnam. Their main catches are snails and clams

Stray bullet from warring drug gangs kills woman

France
David Chazan Paris

A 24-year-old woman has died after being hit by a stray bullet in an attack on a drug-dealing hotspot in Marseilles, prosecutors said yesterday.

The bullet went through a plywood panel below a window of her third-floor flat as a gang member shot at rival dealers. The woman, a law student named only as Socayna, died in hospital yesterday. She had been in a coma since the shooting on Sunday night.

"The death of this young woman touches all of us," said Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, who was visiting the French city to oversee police operations.

It is the 44th death this year in the violence between drug gangs in Marseilles, and 110 more people have been injured.

"She was clearly a collateral victim of a gangland killing aimed at settling scores or seizing control of a drug-dealing site in an area that is not the city's worst for crime," Darmanin said.

Intensified police raids on street dealers were pushing them to seek new locations, Darmanin added.



Gérald Darmanin described the woman as "a collateral victim"

Socayna was in front of her computer when she was struck by the bullet. Her mother, Leïla, told Le Parisien: "My daughter was always in her room, studying, her nose always in a book. I can't understand this shooting. She went to make coffee, she took it, and two seconds later I found her in her room with her head blown apart … Is this war? There was blood everywhere. Her face was disfigured … This isn't Colombia; it's France."

Drug wars are also raging in other cities. France was shocked last month by the death of a ten-year-old boy who was shot in the back of his uncle's car in the southern city of Nîmes. A 19-year-old man was shot dead in a Paris suburb on Sunday, his death also believed to be gang-related.

Assault rifles have become common weapons in the turf wars waged by drug lords in their teens and early twenties in the deprived estates of northern Marseilles.

Laurent Zieleskiewicz, the head of intensive care at Nord hospital in the city, said: "We are increasingly dealing with wounds inflicted by weapons of war."

Socayna's death has caused particular outrage, even in a city long inured to violence. Dominique Laurens, the Marseilles prosecutor, said that the perpetrators would face murder charges, although no arrests have been made.

Separately, most of the youths who took part in riots that swept across France after police shot a teenager of north African origin in a Paris suburb in June were "opportunistic looters", according to a judicial report. Only 8 per cent of those convicted cited the death of Nahel Merzouk as their main motive, it said.

Police 'child abuse' threat to XR activists

Netherlands
Bruno Waterfield

Police are under fire after they threatened to report Extinction Rebellion protesters to a child abuse hotline for taking their children to a motorway blockade.

Such reporting is "standard procedure for arrests in which children are in danger", police in the Netherlands said, but the Safe at Home child protection hotline denounced the tactic. "That's really not what the reporting centre is intended for," said Onno Aerden, a spokesman. "It now appears that the reports have been used as a threat or a potential punitive measure."

Safe at Home is a national charitable network that carries out risk assessments of children or family members before calling in social or child protection services if necessary.

"There are numerous grounds for reporting but taking a minor to a peaceful demonstration is not one of them. And even if the police decide that this is the case, this in itself does not lead to an investigation," said Aerden. "The police made a somewhat empty threat."

More than 200 people, including 40 children, were arrested on Monday during the third Extinction Rebellion (XR) blockade of the A12 motorway near The Hague. "A report has been made for almost all children who have been arrested," Dick Goijert, a spokesman for the Hague police, said.

Musetta Blaauw, who was arrested with her daughter Ruan, six, told the Algemeen Dagblad newspaper: "This is intimidation. This was a peaceful demonstration, not hooligans rioting. We were just sitting on the motorway singing songs and eating biscuits."



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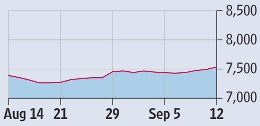
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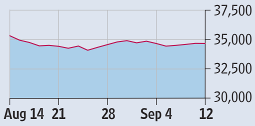
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

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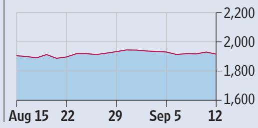


Dow Jones
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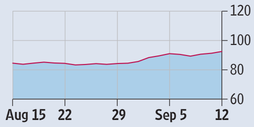


COMMODITIES

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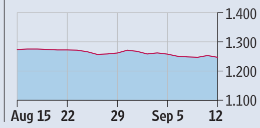


Brent crude
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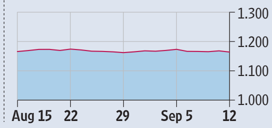


CURRENCIES

£/$
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£/€
€1.1632 (-0.0029) ▼



Smurfit Kappa to exit FTSE 100 after merger of packaging empires

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Smurfit Kappa will abandon the FTSE 100 for America's S&P 500 index after its takeover of WestRock to create the world's largest packaging company.

News of the deal to create Smurfit WestRock sent shares in Smurfit Kappa down sharply on the London Stock Exchange, tumbling by 9.8 per cent, or 300p, to £27.68 last night.

The mainly share-based transaction to create a group with an annual turnover of $34 billion comes with a lot of debt: nearly £13 billion after adding the heavily borrowed WestRock's $9.5 billion debt to Smurfit Kappa's own outstanding obligations.

There was also arbitraging on the terms of a deal as traders and hedge funds bought WestRock stock as Smurfit's fell. Its shares rose by 2.8 per cent, or 94 cents, to close at $35.01 last night. Smurfit confirmed that it would be taking on WestRock's listing in New York, with executives stating that other paper and packaging companies and industrial stocks in general received a higher rating with investors on Wall Street.

Shareholders in WestRock will receive one share in Smurfit WestRock plus $5 for every share they hold. For every one share that investors in Smurfit Kappa own, they will get one share in the merged entity. After the transaction, which is expected to be completed in the second quarter of next year, shareholders in Smurfit Kappa and WestRock respectively will hold 50.4 per cent and 49.6 per cent of Smurfit WestRock.

Though WestRock is the larger of the two companies, with more than $20 million in revenue to more than $12 million at Smurfit Kappa, the deal is a takeover by the latter. All the top jobs — chairman, chief executive and finance director — go to Smurfit's people.

Executives do not foresee regulatory issues. WestRock is predominantly American with little coverage in Europe, while it is vice versa for Smurfit Kappa. The business, which retains Smurfit's domicile in Ireland, is mostly in the packaging of fast-moving consumer goods and pharmaceuticals.

Tony Smurfit, 59, will be chief executive in the enlarged company.

BP boss out after misleading board

Bernard Looney failed to disclose historical relationships with colleagues

Richard Fletcher Business Editor

Bernard Looney has stepped down as chief executive of BP after admitting that he had not been "fully transparent" with the oil group's board about historical relationships with colleagues.

His decision to resign came after the company launched an investigation with the help of external lawyers. The investigation is continuing.

Looney, 53, joined the oil group in 1991 aged 21 and was appointed chief executive in 2020, charged with transforming the oil producer into an integrated energy company.

As chief executive he has steered the group through an energy price shock, the Covid-19 pandemic and a rapid exit from Russia after the invasion of Ukraine last year. His resignation — after only four years in the top job — is likely to shock investors.

In a brief statement last night the BP board said it had launched an investigation in May 2022 after receiving information about Looney's relationships with colleagues. The information had come from an anonymous source.

"During that review, Mr Looney disclosed a small number of historical relationships with colleagues prior to becoming chief executive," BP stated.

"No breach of the company's code of conduct was found. However, the board sought and was given assurances by Mr Looney regarding disclosure of past personal relationships, as well as his future behaviour."

In recent weeks further allegations of a similar nature were received by the company, prompting the board to launch a new investigation with the support of external lawyers.

"Mr Looney has today informed the company that he now accepts that he was not fully transparent in his previous disclosures. He did not provide details of all relationships and accepts he was obligated to make more complete disclosure," BP stated.

"The company has strong values and the board expects everyone at the company to behave in accordance with those values. All leaders in particular are expected to act as role models and to exercise good judgment in a way that earns the trust of others."



Bernard Looney's pay package at BP last year was worth more than £10 million, including a £2.4 million annual bonus

Murray Auchincloss, BP's finance director, will act as chief executive on an interim basis.

Looney was paid £10 million last year — more than double the previous year — including a £2.4 million annual bonus that was in part a reward for its safety performance. The safety bonus was paid despite the death of four workers during the year, angering investors. A fifth of them voted to reject BP's remuneration report at the annual meeting.

BP said last night: "No decisions have yet been made in respect of any remuneration payments to be made to Mr Looney.

"Any such decisions will be disclosed at such times as, and to the extent that, any such decisions are made."

Looney's decision to step down was first reported by the Financial Times.

The Irish citizen is not the first BP boss to step down after disclosures about personal relationships.

In 2007 Lord Browne of Madingley was forced to resign as chief executive after he failed to block The Mail on Sunday from publishing details about his private life. Browne was accused of telling an untruth in court about how he had met a former partner in an attempt to stop the newspaper from revealing details of the relationship.

A member of the FTSE 100 index of blue-chip firms, BP is one of the world's biggest oil and gas companies, with operations in about 70 countries.

Looney is an ambassador for 25x25, an initiative to improve the gender balance among the leadership of FTSE companies. Its target is to have 25 female chief executives in the FTSE 100 by 2025 and in 25 per cent of the larger FTSE index thereafter.

From North Sea to WhatsApp

Profile

The (now former) boss of BP joined the company straight after graduating from University College Dublin in 1991.

Bernard Looney grew up on a small farm in Co Kerry and was the first member of his family to go to university. The Irishman started as a drilling engineer at the oil company, including spells in the North Sea, before moving on after five years to work with the Deepwater operations team in the Gulf of Mexico, a role he held for six years.

In 2004 he was seconded for a year to the Sloan programme at the Stanford Graduate School of Business in California, where he became a Master of Science in Management.

Last year Looney's personal life made the headlines after his ex-wife, Jacqueline Hurst, a life coach who was married to Looney between 2017 and 2019, wrote a self-published book *How To Do You: the Life Changing Art of Mastering Your Thoughts and Taking Control of Your Life*.

The chapter on anxiety covers the end of a marriage understood to refer to Looney, in which she said the relationship was severed without warning via a WhatsApp message — the husband had wanted to get to the next level of seniority in the company he worked for and had had to be seen to be married.

A BP spokesman said at the time: "We don't comment on the personal life of any of our people, including the chief executive."

Need to know

1 Labour said it would introduce an Employment Rights Bill within 100 days of taking office if it won the next general election. Measures would include a new form of collective bargaining to let unions negotiate pay and conditions across entire sectors of the economy, such as social care. The legislation would repeal some existing union laws. Page 7

2 Tony Blair has urged ministers to tax junk food and impose tougher regulations on the food industry to tackle the obesity crisis. Speaking to The Times Health Commission, he compared the need for intervention over poor diets to the smoking ban, which he introduced as prime minister in 2007. Page 8

3 Primark will increase security in its stores after its profits were hit by a rise in shoplifting. Associated British Foods, the budget clothing brand's owner, said that summer profits had been dented by "higher than expected stock loss", but still lifted its guidance for full-year profits. Pages 18, 36

4 Bernard Looney has stepped down as chief executive of BP after admitting that he had not been "fully transparent" with the oil group's board about historical relationships with colleagues. His decision to resign came after the company launched an investigation. Page 31

5 Smurfit Kappa will abandon the FTSE 100 for America's S&P 500 index after its takeover of WestRock to create the world's largest packaging company. News of the deal to create Smurfit WestRock sent shares in Smurfit Kappa down in London. Page 31

6 Traditional supermarkets are starting to make inroads against Aldi and Lidl after launching a price war to hang on to their shoppers. The two German discounters have lost market share in recent weeks.

7 Wages outstripped inflation for the first time in more than a year, helping to ease the strain on households. Official statistics showed that average weekly earnings, when stripping out bonuses, rose by 7.8 per cent in the three months to July. Page 34

8 Mortgage balances in arrears jumped by 28.8 per cent to £16.9 billion, the highest in seven years. Figures released by the Bank of England showed that arrears balances account for 1.02 per cent of all outstanding home loans. Page 34

9 The planned launch of a central bank digital currency has been plagued by "a lot of concerns about privacy" and state control, one of the Bank of England's most senior officials has admitted. Page 34

10 Britain's manufacturing sector has overtaken France to reach eighth place in the global rankings, according to an analysis of the latest official figures by Make UK, the industry body. It is only the third time since 2002 that Britain has been ranked above France. Page 37

Big supermarkets halt the

Dominic Walsh



Britain's traditional supermarkets are starting to make inroads against Aldi and Lidl after launching a price war to hang on to their shoppers.

Latest figures from Kantar, the retail data provider, suggest that while the two German discounters have lost market share in recent weeks, some established supermarkets are winning back customers.

In the 12 weeks to September 3, Aldi suffered a dip in market share from 10.2 per cent a month earlier to 10.1 per cent, while Lidl fell from 7.7 per cent to 7.6 per cent. For Aldi, it was the first loss of market share this year, while for Lidl it was the first decline recorded for seven months.

Tesco and Sainsbury's have mimicked the actions of the German duo by implementing price cuts and improving loyalty schemes. Upwards of 30 rounds of price cuts have been pushed through since the cost of living crisis started to bite, part of a sustained effort to head off the prospect of tens of thousands of customers decamping.

The result for Tesco was an increase in market share from 27 per cent in the 12 weeks to August 6 to 27.2 per cent in the 12 weeks to September. Sainsbury's market share over the same period was flat at 14.8 per cent, although it was an increase on the 14.6 per cent achieved a year ago.

Other supermarkets to win market share include Asda and Waitrose, while the Co-op and Iceland were flat. Morrisons and Ocado both went backwards.

In many cases, the discounts are being deployed by making certain staple products cheaper to holders of loyalty cards.

Clive Black, the retail expert, marked the opening of Aldi's 1,000th UK store — and the announcement that it was raising its target in the country to 1,500 — with a piece of research suggesting that the rise of the discounters was, if not stalling, then at least slowing down.

The Shore Capital analyst said: "In times gone by, an announcement that Aldi is going to expand its estate by a third in the UK would have caused notable waves through the British supermarket scene. Last week's news was taken by the stock and corporate bond markets in their stride.

"Such a reaction does not mean such an aspiration from this Teutonic German retail beast is welcome, but it does reflect that the UK grocery market has gone through the peak of the fascia's disruption, a current market still coming to terms with considerable cost of goods and operating expense inflation but acting in a rational manner."

Black noted that Sainsbury's and Tesco were maintaining market share "without resorting to adding new space, enabling them to deliver strong free cashflow and sustaining robust financial constitutions".

While Aldi and Lidl may be — if only temporarily — shedding a bit of market share, this does not mean that their sales are falling off a cliff. Fraser McKevitt, head of retail and consumer insight at Kantar, said that a year after Aldi had become the fourth largest supermarket in Britain, behind Tesco, Sainsbury's and Asda, it had continued to grow.

"Between them, the discounters now

Ritz sale cash went to creditors, not Barclay family

Ben Martin

The Barclay family did not enjoy a big windfall from selling the Ritz, despite achieving a price of about £750 million for the hotel, it has emerged.

The 117-year-old Ritz was the crown jewel of the Barclays' business empire, but the sale of the London landmark caused a family feud that culminated in a legal battle and allegations of secretly bugged conversations.

It was bought by Abdulhadi Mana al-Hajri, a Qatari businessman. However, and in spite of the high price tag, the Barclay family and Lloyds received little of the proceeds because much of the money went to other creditors, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

The Barclays' finances are under scrutiny after the family ceded ownership in June of the Telegraph stable of newspapers, another of their prized assets. Lloyds Banking Group took control of the Daily and Sunday Telegraph and of The Spectator magazine after talks with the Barclays about repaying debts of more than £1 billion broke down.

Lloyds inherited the family's debt from HBOS, the lender that collapsed in 2008 during the financial crisis. HBOS was rescued by Lloyds through a government-orchestrated takeover. The deal resulted in Lloyds taking on about £200 billion of problematic borrowings at HBOS, of which the Barclay family represented the biggest single client exposure, according to the newspaper. Interest then took the family's debt from about £800 million to more than £1 billion.

A spokesman for the Barclays and Lloyds did not comment on the FT report.

Suitors are now circling the Telegraph titles before an auction of the papers by Lloyds, which has hired



When the Ritz hotel was sold, some creditors came before Lloyds Bank

investment bankers from Goldman Sachs to handle the sale. The Barclays are seeking to wrest back control of the titles, while the Daily Mail and General Trust, which owns the Daily Mail, has confirmed an interest in the newspapers.

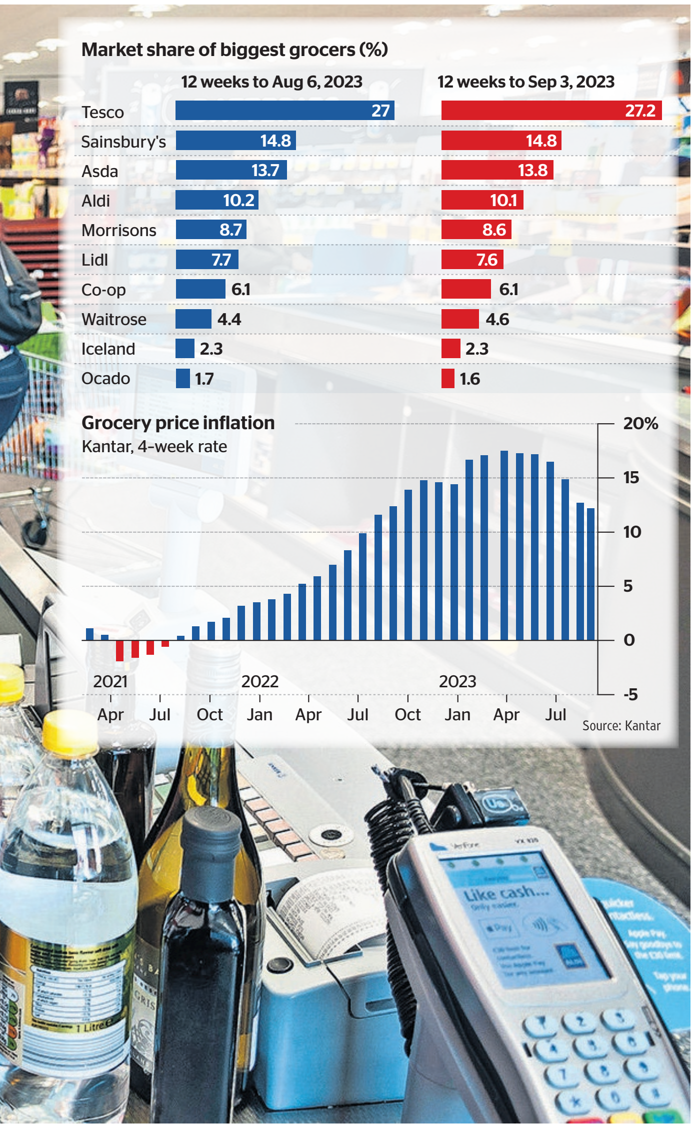
Other potential bidders are thought to include Sir Paul Marshall, one of Britain's best-known investors, who co-founded Marshall Wace, the hedge fund, and made a multimillion-pound fortune from the business.

Marshall already has interests in the media, having provided financial backing to GB News, the upstart television channel. Sky News reported yesterday that he had turned to Moelis, the boutique investment bank, to advise him on a possible bid for the Telegraph.

While the Barclays were longstanding debtors of Lloyds, Charlie Nunn, who became the bank's chief executive two years ago, has said that the lender decided to take action this year to "make sure that we were trying to get the right economic return on the debt".

Nunn said in July that he believed a new owner for the Telegraph titles would be found "relatively quickly" and his expectation was that "there will be a lot of interest" in the papers.

rise of discounters



capture 17.7 per cent of the sector," he said. "We expect this performance to continue as inflation remains stubbornly high. However, growth rates for both the discounters have been slowing as they annualise against rapid rises last year." Own-label sales, which dominate the shelves at both Aldi and Lidl, grew by 9.9 per cent over the course of the month, accounting for 51 per cent of all grocery sales, up from 48 per cent in August 2013 and the equivalent to a £3 billion shift in sales away from brands.

Food price rises lowest for a year

Dominic Walsh

Grocery prices inflation has fallen to its lowest level for more than a year, but people remain concerned about rising supermarket bills.

The figure fell for the sixth month in a row in the four weeks to September 3, down to 12.2 per cent from 12.7 per cent the previous month, the latest data from Kantar showed.

Despite the continuing fall in the rate of price rises since the figure peaked at 17.5 per cent in March, Fraser McKevitt, head of retail and consumer insight at Kantar, the market researcher, said that "12.2 per cent won't be a number to celebrate for many households.

"Our data shows that 95 per cent of consumers are still worried about the impact of rising grocery prices, matched only by their concern about energy bills.

"After a full year of double-digit grocery inflation, it's no surprise that just under a quarter of the population consider themselves to be struggling financially — although this is a very slight drop compared to May."

For the 12-week period until September 3, grocery inflation was 13 per cent, with the fastest rises in products such as eggs, sugar, confectionery, frozen chips and other potato products.

The government's key economic pledge to halve inflation in 2023 before a probable election in 2024 is being challenged by stubbornly high food inflation. The recent downward trajectory is being watched by consumers, politicians and the Bank of England as it mulls further rises in interest rates.

Andrew Bailey, its governor, has hinted that the Bank could be ready to pause its interest rate rises and has told MPs on the Treasury select committee this month that inflation is on course for a "marked" decline. He insisted that interest rates were already in "restrictive" territory and that the central bank was "much nearer now to the top of the [tightening] cycle".

All the country's big grocers have cut the prices of some staple products in recent months, with Waitrose and Aldi the latest to do so this week.

'Future of the internet' on trial in US

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Lawyers for the US government claimed yesterday that Google did not play by the rules in its efforts to keep its dominance in online search, paying billions of dollars to ensure that smaller rivals failed to get traction.

"This case is about the future of the internet," Kenneth Dintzer said, arguing for the Department of Justice that Google had begun in 2010 to illegally maintain its monopoly.

On the first day of the biggest antitrust case for decades, the department's lawyers said the search group had used its size to stifle competition, paying $10 billion a year to keep its dominance through deals with the likes of Samsung to ensure that it was the default web browser, cutting out rivals and boosting its advertising revenue.

The lawyers claimed that by 2020, Google had paid between $4 billion and $7 billion to be the default search engine on Apple's Safari browser.

Google, which controls more than 90 per cent of global internet searches, said its dominance stemmed from its success, rather than nefarious actions. "People don't use Google because they have to; they use it because they want to," Kent Walker, president of global affairs for Google and Alphabet, the parent company, wrote in a blog post, saying that customers could change their default browser on different devices with a few clicks.

"We plan to demonstrate at trial that our search distribution agreements reflect choices by browsers and device-makers based on the quality of our services and the preferences of consumers," he said.

In his opening remarks, Dintzer said: "This case is about the future of the internet and whether Google will ever face meaningful competition." The suit was filed in 2020 and the trial is due to last for ten weeks, with a potentially transformative outcome for the future of search.

The last antitrust case between the federal government and an American technology company was in 1998, when Microsoft was accused of forcing computer companies to include its browser, Internet Explorer. A settlement was reached.

The Google case is being seen as a sign of the attitude of America's lawmakers towards Big Tech and it mirrors a crackdown on the actions of technology companies around the world. The trial also comes at a critical time for the sector, as the rise of chatbots powered by generative artificial intelligence has led some experts to question whether Google would maintain its dominance in the field, as people change how they search for information.

Squeeze is easing, but don't relax



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Patrick Hosking*

The latest labour market figures look like good news for working households struggling to pay the bills. For the first time in 18 months, wages are outpacing inflation. The squeeze on real incomes is abating, for now. But as an indicator of Britain's success in defeating inflation, the statistics make grim reading. Total wages are growing at 8.5 per cent by one measure, their fastest since modern records began in 2001.

That kind of pace is completely inconsistent with the country's inflation target of 2 per cent and is significantly higher than the United States and most European nations. Employees and public sector unions especially have been successful in clawing back some of their eroded purchasing power. But now employers will try to compensate for their higher costs by pushing up selling prices. Those with strong market positions and pricing muscle will be able to do just that. And so the wages/prices spiral is likely to spin on, at least for a while and albeit more slowly.

With every passing quarter, the danger is that inflation above 2 per cent comes to be seen as routine and inevitable and so gets more baked into expectations. So far, the rising pool of unemployed and shrinking level of vacancies haven't done much to keep the lid on, though there were faint signs of capitulation in the PAYE figures, which showed earnings falling month-on-month in August.

There are other promising signs. George Weston, chief executive of Associated British Foods, believes the worst is over. Even so, his own experience spells out the dangers in microcosm. ABF's Primark staff have been awarded an 11 per cent to 12 per cent wages rise, while prices in its stores are up by about 7 per cent to 8 per cent. Margins, partly as a result, are a bit below expectations. Primark will be looking to restore them.

The threat of more leapfrogging leaves the Bank of England with little choice but to increase the base rate again next week to dampen demand a bit more. All bets are off until we see the August inflation numbers, which come out the day before.

Pensions in a state

One thing that is certain after those wages numbers is that, without a change of policy, the state pension will rise by at least 8.5 per cent next year under the triple-lock rules, pushing the annual bill north of £120 billion. It's another reason why the state pension needs a thorough review.

Of course the triple lock has to go. It's only a matter of when. It is mathematically absurd, generationally unfair and ultimately unaffordable. It has lifted a lot of elderly people out of poverty, but it's time has gone. It is people below 66 who need some indulgence. Speculation about its likely demise, whoever wins the election next year, is so rampant that, far from the original aim of fostering confidence in the reliability of the state pension, it may already be having the opposite effect. If it were a financial product sold in the private sector, the state pension wouldn't stand a chance of getting regulatory approval. On eligibility, on funding, on fairness grounds, it is a joke.

As Nye Bevan, founding father of the NHS, once remarked: "The great secret of the national insurance fund is there ain't no fund." State pensions are entirely dependent on the willingness of tomorrow's taxpayers to pony up for them.

What private pension company could legally slash your benefits if you had the temerity to move to Australia or Canada? What private scheme would sell additional benefits for one tenth of what they actually cost (which is what the selling of extra "qualifying NI years" sometimes amounts to)?

Investing simply

Monzo has been an innovative competitive force since introducing its coral-pink debit cards to the world. The digital bank has won eight million UK customers with its friendly mix of spending notifications, prompts and savings tools. So its push into investment products will be closely watched, both by the traditional incumbents such as Hargreaves Lansdown and also by those more tapped into novice investors like the JP Morgan-owned Nutmeg and AJ Bell's new Dodl service.

The tie-up with BlackRock enables Monzo to offer a simple range of three funds, all Isa-able and accessible at the touch of a smartphone. Minimum investment is £1. If it helps to introduce a new generation to patient, well-diversified investing, that will be a great win. One disappointment is that it hasn't pushed very hard to drive down fees. The all-in price of 0.59 per cent of funds managed will hardly discomfort the likes of no-frills Vanguard, charging 0.37 per cent for a comparable service.

Metro sin not paid

Metro Bank seems to be still paying the price of that notorious £900 million accounting blunder five years ago. The popular bank, which didn't read the manual about closing branches, miscategorised its mortgages as less than risky than they were, then fibbed about how the mistake had been uncovered. The Prudential Regulation Authority was not amused. Now it has failed to win approval from the PRA to move to a privileged system bestowed on its bigger rivals, which are given more freedom to calculate their own capital requirements. It could have released oodles of spare capital.

The response was an 21 per cent share price drop to 80p. Metro shares were worth 50 times that before the original debacle.

Mistreat staff, customers and suppliers, by all means, but never fall out with your regulator.

robert.lea@thetimes.co.uk
Alistair Osborne is away

Business

Bank's digital currency 'beset by privacy and state control worries'

Mehreen Khan

The planned launch of a central bank digital currency has been plagued by "a lot of concerns about privacy" and state control, one of the Bank of England's most senior officials has admitted.

Sarah Breeden, who will become deputy governor of the Bank in charge of the digital pound, has warned that a consultation regarding the launch of the currency has been met with public scepticism about whether the Treasury or the Bank will be able to monitor people's financial transactions.

The Bank and the Treasury are consulting on the creation of the digital pound, with a view of taking a final decision on whether to press ahead with the project by 2025 and to roll out the currency before the end of the decade.

Central bank digital currencies have been touted by monetary authorities as a way to offer an "ultra-safe" form of public money that will prevent consumers from being exploited by private sector digital currencies, known as stablecoins.



Sarah Breeden told MPs there needs to be a national debate

However, the digital pound, like other planned central bank digital currencies, has been plagued with fears that governments could use the system to exclude people from their financial assets.

Breeden told MPs on the Treasury select committee yesterday that there needed to be a "national conversation" about the merits of a central bank digital currency. "While I am supportive and see its merits, it was apparent in the responses that we got to the discussion paper that there is a lot of concern about privacy," she said.

"What we need to do with the Treasury and parliament is to reassure the public about how privacy is going to be delivered. We must not assume trust in practice. We need to demonstrate that whatever parliament has decided [on privacy] is the right boundary and one that we will deliver."

Her comments are rare admission from the Bank that the digital pound project could falter without wider public backing. The issue of financial exclusion has become supercharged in recent months, with figures such as Nigel Farage, the former Ukip leader, claiming that central bank digital currencies will "give the state total control over our lives".

The digital pound will be money created by the Bank of England rather than commercial banks, but consumers will not directly hold bank accounts at the central bank. Instead, third-party applications can be used to manage digital pounds, which can be used for online transactions or for companies and public bodies to pay out salaries in.



Pay rises exceed inflation to ease pressure on British households

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

Workers' wages outstripped inflation for the first time in more than a year in July, helping to ease the strain on households hit by an erosion to the value of their pay packets.

Official statistics showed that average weekly earnings, when stripping out bonuses, rose by 7.8 per cent in the three months to July, in line with forecasts and matching the highest pace of wage growth recorded in 22 years.

The figure surpasses the headline rate of consumer prices inflation recorded in July of 6.8 per cent and is the first time that wage growth has been higher than prices since October 2021.

When including bonuses, average earnings rose by 8.5 per cent, above forecasts of 8.2 per cent and a figure that may be used to uprate state pensions if the government commits to its longstanding triple-lock policy later in the year. The Office for National Statistics said that bonuses awarded to civil servants and NHS staff had helped to push up the total pay figure in July.

Despite strong growth in wages, other parts of the labour market are beginning to slow down under the weight of high interest rates. The unemployment rate edged up from 4.2 per cent to 4.3 per cent and total employment dropped by 207,000 in the three months to July, surpassing forecasts of 185,000 and more than the 33,000 drop thatn had been recorded in June.

The fall was the biggest reported outside a recession and pushed the employment rate down to 75.5 per cent from 76 per cent. Total vacancies in the economy also dropped below the million mark to 989,000 and the figure has now declined for 14 consecutive months.

Evidence of labour market softening will be closely watched by ratesetters at the Bank of England as markets begin to speculate that the central bank could pause its monetary tightening after 20 months of aggressive action to quell inflation.

Both Andrew Bailey, the Bank's governor, and Huw Pill, its chief economist, have hinted that they think interest rates are restrictive enough to suck demand out of the economy and help to reduce prices. The base rate stands at 5.25 per cent and has been raised steadily from 0.1 per cent in December 2021.

The labour market is a key indicator for future inflation, as high wage growth supports spending and inflation. However, a recent rise in unemployment suggests that wage growth will subside this year, as workers' bargaining power to demand inflation-busting pay is reduced.

Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG, said she expected the Bank to raise rates by another 0.25 percentage points this month as high pay growth "continues to present a conundrum for ratesetters".

While most economists think wage growth has peaked, the pace of earnings growth is likely to fall back gradually, according to Sanjay Raja at Deutsche Bank. He sees it dropping to about 7 per cent by the end of the year — still nearly double the rate that the Bank needs to ensure that inflation falls back to its 2 per cent target by 2025.

Kitty Ussher, chief economist at the Institute of Directors, said the labour market data should force the Bank's ratesetting monetary policy committee to keep rates on hold at its next meeting on September 21. "Although wage inflation still feels high, the headline rate is now being driven by the recent public sector pay settlements, which will not lead to cost pass-through on the part of their employers."

Mortgage arrears hit 7-year high

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The value of mortgage balances in arrears has jumped to the highest level in seven years as rising interest rates pile pressure on household finances.

Figures released yesterday by the Bank of England showed that arrears balances had risen by 28.8 per cent year-on-year to £16.9 billion in the three months to the end of June, the most since the third quarter of 2016.

They now account for 1.02 per cent of all outstanding home loans, up from 0.89 per cent in the first quarter of the year.

While arrears as a proportion of overall balances remain low, the sharp rise in value compared with last year suggests that higher rates are taking their toll on borrowers. The arrears rate is also likely to rise further as the impact of more expensive loan costs bite. Most mortgage holders are on fixed-term deals, meaning it is taking time for the impact of higher rates to be felt.

Andrew Wishart, a senior economist at Capital Economics, the consultancy, said mortgage rates were now higher than they were when the statistics released yesterday were compiled, suggesting that the "increase in arrears will only become more severe".

Lewis Shaw, of Shaw Financial Services, described the latest data as "dire" and warned: "The speed at which mortgage arrears are increasing is terrifying."

A borrower is deemed to be in arrears if they have fallen behind on payments equivalent to at least 1.5 per cent of their outstanding balance or if a property has been repossessed. There are worries that an increasing number of homeowners who took out mortgages when borrowing costs were at historic lows are unable to cope with the financial shock they face when their loan deals end and they have to refinance on much more expensive terms, resulting in a jump in their monthly repayments.

The Bank's base rate stood at a record low of 0.1 per cent in November 2021. Since then monetary policy has been tightened in an effort to cool inflation. Fourteen increases in a row have taken the base interest rate to a 15-year high of 5.25 per cent.

While Andrew Bailey, the Bank's governor, has signalled that rates are close to their peak, expectations are growing that borrowing costs will need to be kept at elevated levels for a prolonged period. Mortgage prices have surged as the Bank's base rate has risen. The average rate on a two-year, fixed residential mortgage is 6.66 per cent, up from 4.55 per cent a year ago and 2.33 per cent in September 2021, according to Moneyfacts, a data provider.

David Smith

Jobs figures show the public sector juggernaut just keeps rolling along



Most of the jobs market is cooling but the public sector is booming. The latest labour market figures have been published and most people — with good reason — rushed to see what they said about the growth in wages. Not only does that matter for next April's "triple lock" uprating of pensions, it will help to determine whether the Bank of England has another shot in its locker on interest rates.

As it turned out, this was a generally weak set of data, with unemployment up quite sharply, and vacancies down but pay strong, which has led most economists to conclude that the Bank probably will raise interest rates again next week, perhaps for the last time in this sequence. The government appears to have shot itself in the foot, with pay growth lifted by the timing of awards to some public sector workers, pushing up the annual increase for them to 12.2 per cent, against 7.6 per cent for the private sector.

However, I was drawn to another piece of the statistical jigsaw, the official figures for public sector employment, because they tell an interesting story. They show that there were 5.87 million people employed in the public sector in June, up by 33,000 on the previous quarter and by 133,000 on a year earlier. Public and private sector employment are now moving in opposite directions, with the number of private sector workers down by 243,000 between March and June and, it appears, likely down further since then.

You may remember that the strength of public sector employment was thought to be a pandemic phenomenon, reflecting "test and trace" and other programmes. Yet it appears to be ingrained. Astonishingly, the number of people employed by the NHS is nudging very close to two million. It used to be thought that there were three mass employers in the world: the Chinese army, Indian railways and the NHS. The NHS, on these figures, is still a little behind the People's Republic, but it appears to be several hundred thousand bigger in employment terms than India's railways. There are, by the way, 522,000 people employed by the civil service — and rising.

Looked at over the slightly longer term and adjusted for reclassifications, public sector employment is up by just under 400,000, or 7.5 per cent, compared with where it was at the end of 2019. Private sector employment on the same basis is down by about half a million to just over 27 million.

Public sector employment on this basis is higher than it has been on records that stretch back to 1999, though it was probably higher in pre-privatisation days in the 1960s and 1970s, when nationalised industries were big employers. It is about 1.2 million, or 16 per cent, higher than it was a quarter of a century ago and is higher than it was in 2010, when David Cameron and George Osborne embarked on austerity. Whether or not the two things are related, it is 10 per cent higher than at the time of the Brexit referendum in 2016.

There is plenty to get your teeth into with these figures, but I should note that there is a debate about the number of people employed by, or with jobs dependent on, the public sector. Paul Mortimer-Lee, writing in the May edition of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research quarterly review, provided three different estimates.

One was the equivalent of that quoted above, based on employer returns, showing that just under six million are directly employed in the public sector. A second and higher figure was for people describing themselves as working in the public sector, or employed producing public sector output or services, and this was 7.6 million. A third figure of no less than 10.6 million was for people who work in sectors or industries traditionally regarded as being in the public sector, even if many are not directly employed by the state. Mortimer-Lee argued that this third measure might be the best to use.

As he put it: "It can be argued that the third measure is a better reflection … of the reality of the use of labour resources in the economy. It is not who employs the labour that matters for resource allocation, but what that labour produces. If labour produces services for the public sector, it should be classified as public sector (e.g: self-employed speech and language therapists in schools, workers in PFI — private finance initiative — establishments, employees in care homes)."

He also used the figures to ask again the question posed by two Oxford economists in the 1970s in a book that, thanks to a Sunday Times serialisation, became a bestseller. Its title was *Britain's Economic Problem: Too Few Producers* and the authors were Robert Bacon and Walter Eltis. The thesis was that too large a public sector was squeezing out the productive parts of the economy and it was hugely influential on a Tory party led by Margaret Thatcher, then in opposition and preparing for government. Eltis later became director-general of the National Economic Development Council, or "Neddy", before it was abolished by John Major's government.

Does the argument work now? Public sector employment is rising quite strongly, although, at a time of private sector weakness, it is helping to keep the unemployment rate from rising more sharply. Government spending, having risen to a peacetime record of the equivalent of 53 per cent of gross domestic product during the pandemic, is predicted to be a still-high 46 per cent of GDP this year. The tax burden is at its highest since the late 1940s. Politicians still measure success in terms of the number of public employees they can add to the total, as with the recent NHS workforce plan. Whether or not the private sector is being crowded out, we need to think more about the size of public sector we can afford.



The National Health Service now employs 1.96 million people

David Smith is Economics Editor of The Sunday Times
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Katie Prescott

Everything to play for in a confusing game of what and where to watch TV

After enduring a near-two-week blackout, 15 million viewers in the United States happily settled down to watch *Monday Night Football* this week as the New York Jets beat the Buffalo Bills. These were Spectrum customers of Charter, who had lost access to the Disney-owned ESPN sports channel (among others) as the cable business fronted up to the House of Mouse over what it could offer viewers and at how much cost.

Television is proving to be a battleground for a host of stand-offs as old business models get ripped up, new ones struggle to bed in and the industry settles uncomfortably into a new era. Disney, like its rivals, now sells its streaming services directly to consumers, as well as selling channels to cable companies, creating an uneasy relationship. The row started because Charter wanted to offer its customers the streaming services alongside channels, arguing that Disney was expecting customers to pay twice for its services. Disney said its streaming services were different because they offered extra content.

> 'The rise of the streamers has increased choice exponentially, creating a golden age of television'

The solution? Charter's customers will now get Disney+ with ads for free and will get market rates on Disney streaming services — so, a touchdown for Disney. Those who subscribe to a certain service will get ESPN with adverts, too, but they'll get fewer channels. Some, including Disney Junior, are excluded from the new arrangement.

Bob Iger, Disney's chief executive, and Chris Winfrey, Charter's boss, said "this deal recognises both the continued value of linear television and the growing popularity of streaming services, while addressing the evolving needs of our consumers". The word "evolving" is key. As Winfrey declared during the spat, the pay TV model is "broken" and this is a crunch point for the industry. According to Ampere, the number of pay-TV customers in America has dropped from 92 million to 63 million since 2017. Those who stayed have had to pay more in a vicious cycle, the company said, adding it would have to change the present model or abandon video.

Yet, like the Jets, Charter could claim a victory this week in having forced Disney to acknowledge that it still needs the business of cable, or pay TV. Now other cable companies may try to reshape their relationships with entertainment partners.

While this is happening in the US, a very distinct market, it reflects a broader concern about where power lies in the television industry. Take Sky, for example. It has a deal with Warner Discovery to provide its HBO content to customers, one that is due to end in 2025. Warner has launched its own direct-to-consumer "Max" streaming service, including a tantalising new *Harry Potter* television show. This is not yet available in Britain because of the Sky deal. Some industry-watchers believe the deal will roll over because having Sky marketing its channels is far more convenient for Warner and because content providers find it easier to take a regular cheque.

What we are seeing is a recognition from the content producers that they cannot go it alone. That's not the direction of travel expected when Netflix burst on to the scene.

Next week the media industry will gather in Cambridge for the annual Royal Television Society conference and this will be a key discussion point. The theme this year is "Too Much To Watch" and executives are exploring how customers pick their way through all the content on offer across television and social media, through cable packages and directly.

The rise of the streamers has increased choice exponentially, creating a golden age of television as a huge amount of money has been pumped into content. With the writers' strike and increased cost-cutting, this is now slowing down and business models are being reassessed. This all hits the end product. Ampere has found that scripted television will be down in the US by 75 per cent by the first quarter of next year. "Too little to watch" might be the topic dominating the RTS agenda in 2024.

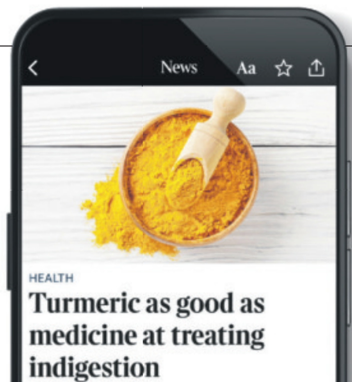
Katie Prescott is Technology Business Editor of The Times

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Business

Primark owner shrugs off store thefts to promise higher profit

Tom Howard

Primark's parent company has lifted its profit guidance again after a boost from its fashion chain and food businesses in recent months.

Associated British Foods had said that adjusted operating profit for its financial year, which runs until the end of this week, would be "moderately ahead" of the £1.44 billion in 2022, but it now expects the full-year outcome to be "slightly better" than that.

Analysts quickly nudged up their forecasts for the present year and for following 12 months after the group promised a "substantial improvement" in profitability at both Primark and its sugar business.

The outlook pushed up shares in the FTSE 100 conglomerate by 107p, or 5.4 per cent, to £21.08.

Associated British Foods is best known as the owner of Primark, the value fashion retailer, but the group spans industries including sugar, animal feed, grocery brands and bakery ingredients.

It is controlled by the billionaire Weston family and has been run since 2005 by George Weston, 59, whose great-grandfather started the business as a baker in Canada in the 1880s.

It makes household brands including Twinings, Ovaltine and Patak's curry sauces and in recent months sales of such brands have been "slightly ahead" of internal forecasts, boosted by strong demand in the United States.

A positive showing in Africa meant that trading in its sugar business, one of the biggest producers in Europe, has been "slightly better than expected", while sales of its ingredients — yeast, enzymes and lipids used in baking and fruit juice processing — are ahead of forecasts.

Sales at Primark over the summer were 15 per cent above the same period last year, driven by "selective price increases, well-received ranges and strongly performing new stores". That was despite "unusually variable and unseasonable weather", especially in July, which hit customer visits to its shops.

However, Primark's profit margins over the past six months have not been as strong as analysts had estimated, largely because of what was described as "higher-than-expected stock loss from stores", as well as a "modest amount of restructuring costs" in Germany.

Primark's full-year profit margin therefore will be about 8 per cent, slightly below the 8.3 per cent anticipated in the City. Sreedhar Mahamkali, a retail analyst at UBS, said that suggested Primark's profits would be about 3 per cent lower than the consensus forecast. Outperformance elsewhere means that annual group profits will still be slightly better than previously thought.

ABF suggested that the next financial year would be better than some analysts had feared and that there should be a "substantial improvement" in profitability in the sugar business after a "particularly poor UK [sugar] crop" last time. Falling materials costs, lower freight rates and a weaker US dollar also should help Primark's profit margin to "recover strongly".

Clive Black, a retail analyst at Shore Capital, said: "ABF appears to be exiting [the financial year] 2023 strongly, stating that it is 'trading well', and we put through a significant 2024 upgrade driven by Primark and sugar."



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Lime closer to green light for flotation

A shared electric bike company is eyeing a stock market listing in the United States after making a profit for the first time (Alex Ralph writes).

Lime, the Uber-backed cycle and

Dowlais debut marred by carworkers' strike threat

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The spectre of carworkers going on strike throughout America loomed over the debut financial results of GKN Automotive, the group now listed in London as Dowlais.

More than 150,000 members of the United Auto Workers union are considering industrial action in a fight over wages with Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. America's "Big Three" manufacturers account for 15 per cent of business at Dowlais as a supplier to the motor industry of powertrain components and sideshafts.

After reporting a 14 per cent increase in its powertrain businesses — ahead of the global growth in car volumes of 12 per cent — in the first half of the year, Dowlais kept its forecasts for the full year unchanged, indicating that revenues in the second half of 2023 are likely to be flat. "We are being prudent because no one knows whether the UAW will be going on strike for one day or for nine weeks," Liam Butterworth, 52, its chief executive, said.

Dowlais was split off in the spring from Melrose Industries, the FTSE 100 conglomerate that acquired GKN after a bad-tempered takeover battle in 2018. Melrose unpicked GKN, giving automotive its own listing as Dowlais — named after a Welsh mining village — and keeping aerospace for itself.

Dowlais has no operations in Britain. More than two fifths of its business is spread across the Americas, about a third is mainly in Europe and nearly 25 per cent is in Asia.

Shares in Dowlais slipped by 7.3 per cent, or 9¼p, to 118¾p last night.

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DAVID A BARNES/ALAMY



Lime was launched in San Francisco in 2017 and in Britain two years later

scooter business, said its gross bookings had risen by 45 per cent to more than $250 million globally in the first half of the year, compared with $180 million a year earlier.

Its adjusted earnings before tax and other charges were $27 million, which Lime said was the first time it had achieved a profit on that basis during the first half of the year since it was launched in San Francisco, California, in 2017. It generated an annual profit for the first time last year.

It said the growth had been driven by its highest quarterly ridership, with more than 40 million trips made globally in the second quarter of this year.

The company operates in Britain, having been launched in London in 2019 and in Manchester and Milton Keynes the following year. It began operating its electric cycles in Nottingham and Derby this year.

Shared electric vehicles from various providers have been popular for their convenience, cost and environmental impact, but have been criticised after dumped bikes have caused obstructions on roads and pavements. In March the London Fire Brigade warned that exploding batteries on such vehicles posed the biggest emerging threat of fire in the capital.

Lime says its shared bikes and scooters are regulated and have measures in place to ensure battery safety and that it also seeks to combat the problem of dumping. It is calling for London-wide shared electric bike regulation and the creation of more than 10,000 parking bays by 2025.

Transport for London awarded contracts to Lime and two other operators in July to run the next phase of the capital's rental electric scooter trial after Department for Transport guidance that allows local authority trials to continue until next year.

Uber led a $170 million investment in Lime in 2020, which was also backed by Alphabet, Google's parent, and Bain Capital.

America offers silver lining to the summer clouds at Fever-Tree

Dominic Walsh

The United States has overtaken Britain to become Fever-Tree's biggest market by revenue after poor summer weather, increased brand investment and issues in Australia and America took the edge off the tonic and mixers group's full-year forecasts.

It painted a more optimistic picture of 2024, however, predicting that weaker inflationary headwinds, helpful summer comparables and action being taken this year would improve its margins and create a platform for future profitable growth.

Tim Warrillow, Fever-Tree's chief executive, said: "We feel as though we are at a bit of a turning point. After all the trials and tribulations that have come our way over the past three years, we can finally see a clear way forward."

In the first half of the year, Fever-Tree increased its revenue by 9 per cent to £175.6 million, with the UK up 1 per cent at £53.8 million and the US 40 per cent higher at £56.1 million. Its underlying earnings for the six months halved from £22 million to £10.2 million and the interim dividend was up 2 per cent at 5.74p.

While the company cut its full-year forecasts for 2023 by about 15 per cent, the mooted turnaround next year is expected by analysts to lead to an increase in earnings of about 10 per cent.

In Britain, despite the poor summer weather, Fever-Tree continued to maintain a dominant position, with a record 45 per cent market share by value, well ahead of Schweppes. It also garnered 53 per cent of the on-trade — comprising sales through pubs and restaurants — which Warrillow said was "a reflection of the relations we've built with the trade".

He added: "The truth is that it really was a poor summer, the wettest on record, and that does have a really unfortunate impact on our busiest trading period of the year. The whole category was 20 per cent down. We weren't as bad as that, but it doesn't help."

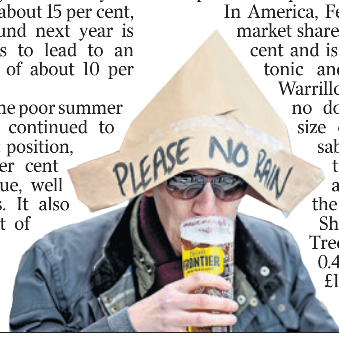
Other negative factors included a one-off £3.3 million hit on its American division from a production issue that affected stock. Warrillow, 48, did not give any detail on the subject, except to confirm that the stock affected had been quarantined and that production was now being stepped up again. He said it was "an irritation but not onerous" and he was optimistic of clawing costs back from insurers.

Fever-Tree's Australian business suffered a financial setback, too, after establishing its own subsidiary in the country and making the transition to a new distributor. Although the group insisted that this would "set us up strongly for the future", its sales were hit by "a one-off inventory buyback". It is in advanced discussions to secure a new production partner in Australia.

In America, Fever-Tree has a market share of about 15 per cent and is ranked No 1 in tonic and ginger beer. Warrillow said "there's no doubt about the size of the addressable market and the opportunity ahead" across the Atlantic.

Shares in Fever-Tree rose by 5p, or 0.4 per cent, to £13.10 last night.

Tempus, page 40



The weather took its toll but Fever-Tree's market share held up

Poundland snaps up bundle of Wilko's stores and staff

Tom Howard

The owner of Poundland has struck a deal to take over up to 71 stores occupied by Wilko, giving hope to hundreds of workers at its stricken rival who had expected to lose their jobs.

Pepco intends to re-brand the Wilko stores "as soon as practical". It hopes to have them ready in time for the final three months of the year, seen in the retail industry as the all-important "golden quarter".

"It will be pleasing to offer employment to a number of Wilko's colleagues," Andy Bond, Pepco's executive chairman, said. "The agreement to take control of a number of Wilko store leases will help to bring Poundland's fantastic prices and offer to even more customers in the UK."

Bond, 58, had begun yesterday as Pepco's chairman, but was promoted to executive chairman after the surprise departure of Trevor Masters, 60, the group's chief executive. Masters' decision to step down came after Pepco warned that this year's profit would be "slightly lower" than it had hoped for following a "weaker than expected sales performance".

Wilko fell into administration last month and a last-ditch effort to rescue the chain, led by Doug Putman, the Canadian billionaire behind HMV, the music and videos seller, failed this week.

As a result, all of Wilko's shop estate, which had numbered about 400 sites before its collapse, will be shut by early October, although 122 of those now will reopen but with the names of its rivals above the doors. In addition to Pepco's deal, B&M paid £13 million for 51 shops last week, although its agreement did not include any of Wilko's 10,200 remaining employees.

10,200

Number of remaining Wilko employees
Source: Wilko

It is hoped that a small number of jobs will be saved through a sale of Wilko's brand and website to The Range, another rival discounter.

Edward Williams, the joint administrator of Wilko, said: "We will continue to engage with other retailers around any interest in other Wilko sites and are confident of completing a sale of the brand and intellectual property within the coming days."

UK factory output overtakes France

Simon Freeman

Britain's manufacturing sector has overtaken France to reach eighth place in the global rankings, according to an analysis of the latest official figures by Make UK, the industry body.

The numbers show that UK factory output was worth $272 billion in 2021, the most recent year for which worldwide comparisons are available, compared with $262 billion for France.

It is only the third time since 2002 that Britain has been ranked above France.

Make UK believes that if the government were to commit to a manufacturing target of 15 per cent of GDP, or $460 billion, the sector could aim to match the seventh-ranked Italy.

The data was collected before the German economy was ravaged by the energy crisis and global downturn: its output in the year was $803 billion, placing it fourth behind China ($4.9 trillion), the United States ($2.5 trillion) and Japan ($995 billion).



British manufacturing is now in eighth place in the global rankings

America remained the dominant export market for British goods, worth £56.7 billion in 2022, according to the Office for National Statistics. Six of the top ten export markets are in the European Union and together are worth £150 billion, or almost four times sales to China. The Netherlands overtook Germany as a buyer of British-made goods, although this figure may be inflated by goods being routed through Rotterdam for onward travel.

By sector, food and drink is the biggest exporter. It sent 12.4 per cent of manufactured goods abroad in 2022; their value increased by about a quarter compared with 2021.

The aerospace and transport sector achieved the largest growth in exports, with the northwest named the biggest manufacturing region by output. The average salary of £36,488 in manufacturing is about 10 per cent higher than the average wage. Make UK, which claims to represent 20,000 companies, said the figures dispelled the myth that manufacturing jobs typically were less well-paid than other sectors.

The body also repeated its calls for a long-term industrial strategy to ensure that industry keeps pace with rivals and smoothes out trade barriers with the EU, which remains "overwhelmingly its dominant market".

Business

The Times unit trust information service

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UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	...
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	302.16	...	+1.00	4.75
UK Gwth A ‡@	7660.37	...	+15.97	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

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Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	422.55	...	+1.82	1.77
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	...
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	347.48	...	+1.59	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	162.73	...	+0.50	...
Global Income R Inc ‡@	100.06	...	+0.31	...
Global Select R Acc ‡@	153.86	...	+0.65	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.47	...	+0.08	6.46
Income R Acc ‡@	511.30	...	+3.22	3.97
Income R Inc ‡@	219.48	...	+1.38	4.09
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.33	...	+0.14	5.05
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.63	...	+0.05	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.69	...	+0.12	3.97
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.71	...	+0.06	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.51	...	+0.11	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.47	...	+0.06	4.15
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	737.88	...	+4.88	2.13
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1778.07	...	-5.56	1.54
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Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3013.00	...	-7.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	203.80	...	+2.20	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	205.90	...	+0.10	...
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1810.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	249.60	...	+0.30	...

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Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

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Sus Leaders ‡@	774.10	...	+3.00	...
UK Growth ‡@	610.60	...	+2.60	...
UK Income ‡@	200.70	...	+0.80	5.04

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Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	...

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Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1237.00	...	+9.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.65	...	+0.01	1.78
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	421.00	...	+2.00	...
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	302.80	...	+1.80	...
High Inc Trst @	11.19	11.79	+0.02	5.41
Max Inc Bond ‡@	43.09	...	+0.01	3.90
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	895.40	...	+7.00	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	466.50	...	+1.90	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.30	...	...	1.33
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	964.20	...	-1.70	0.20

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Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	327.20	...	+1.40	2.06
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	337.00	...	+1.70	...
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	117.40	...	+0.40	5.13
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	213.80	...	+0.20	...
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	270.70	...	+2.10	...

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American ‡@	5697.00	...	+35.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	566.80	...	-1.20	...
European ‡@	3482.00	...	-8.00	0.83
Extra Income ‡@	21.81	...	+0.05	6.06
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5665.00	...	+37.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2934.00	...	+10.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	607.10	...	+9.20	0.74
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	41.83	...	+0.25	4.16
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.09	...	+0.07	4.99
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	129.60	...	+0.68	...
Special Sits ‡@	4458.00	...	+7.00	...
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	...

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European ‡@	113.40	...	+0.60	1.94
Far Eastern ‡	111.40	...	+0.10	3.42
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	136.40	...	+0.40	...
Intl Gwth ‡	132.70	...	+0.80	...
Japanese ‡	76.25	...	+0.84	...
North Amer ‡	161.70	...	+1.50	0.35
Smaller Cos ‡@	100.90	...	-0.30	1.62
Special Sits ‡@	48.72	...	+0.01	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	91.21	...	+0.52	3.99
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	70.72	...	+0.41	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	79.29	...	+0.39	...
UK Growth ‡@	83.21	...	+0.58	...

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Amer Ind Inc ‡@	793.56	...	+7.59	2.45
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1202.91	...	+2.45	2.63
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	749.31	...	+1.53	2.70
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	280.15	...	+1.70	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	125.11	...	+0.76	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	282.18	...	+0.02	3.62
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	168.03	...	+0.01	3.07
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	709.68	...	+3.62	...
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	352.61	...	+1.80	...
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	151.90	...	+0.85	1.88
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	116.11	...	+0.64	1.92
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	491.74	...	+2.85	3.48
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	298.66	...	+1.73	3.61

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	245.45	...	+1.09	1.19
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	262.96	...	+0.60	5.12
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	100.15	...	+0.22	3.56
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	711.12	...	+2.12	4.20
Income Inc ‡@	285.06	...	+0.85	4.34
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	125.45	...	+0.40	4.09
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	144.72	...	+0.38	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	62.48	...	+0.17	...
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	144.72	...	+0.38	...
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	62.48	...	+0.17	...

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	1001.24	...	+9.57	1.24
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	793.56	...	+7.59	2.45
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	...
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	...
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	...

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	...

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	457.59	...	+0.58	2.32
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	196.33	...	+0.43	3.23
High Income Inc ‡@	313.08	...	+1.95	4.06
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	406.93	...	+1.47	3.32
Income Inc ‡@	1236.77	...	+7.09	3.60
Money Acc ‡@	94.46	...	+0.02	...
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	89.68	...	+0.12	6.27
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	908.90	...	+3.10	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1260.13	...	-1.66	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	750.56	...	+5.48	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	701.82	...	+2.02	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	372.10	...	+0.64	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	231.58	...	+0.40	1.93
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	122.28	...	+0.17	0.51
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	128.85	...	+0.18	0.01
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.72	...	+0.28	2.89
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	66.62	...	+0.06	4.32
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	114.37	...	+0.34	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	63.38	...	+0.19	...
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	145.69	...	+0.37	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	185.12	...	+0.77	5.12
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	69.20	...	+0.29	7.00
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	5.42
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	236.22	...	+2.20	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	319.81	...	+1.98	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1296.82	...	+7.31	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	179.99	...	+1.55	0.92
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	342.14	...	+2.91	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	264.12	...	+2.25	0.21
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	263.65	...	+0.54	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.99	...	+0.12	0.92
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2668.05	...	+17.53	...
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4331.44	...	+21.11	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	3885.01	...	+18.93	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1463.59	...	+14.61	...
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	524.65	...	+5.23	...

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	110.20	...	+0.30	2.50
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	73.69	...	+0.29	5.88
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	279.40	...	+1.10	3.25
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	135.30	...	+0.50	3.31
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1058.00	...	...	0.30
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	191.10	...	+0.80	0.77
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	299.60	...	-0.60	1.16
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2327.00	...	-3.00	0.86
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.73	...	-0.01	4.50
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4341.00	...	+44.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	64.88	...	+0.54	3.34
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3377.00	...	+14.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	114.55	...	+0.62	2.96
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	162.10	...	+0.20	0.82
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	257.60	...	+0.70	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	143.10	...	+0.40	3.27
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	187.30	...	+0.50	3.14
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	199.30	...	+0.50	2.20
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.74	...	+0.12	2.23
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	97.05	...	-0.02	3.18
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	172.40	...	+0.20	0.65
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	132.10	...	+0.40	...
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	...
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	...
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1917.00	...	+20.00	...



JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	...
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	...
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	...
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	...
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	...
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.71	...	...	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	97.51	...	+0.23	2.67
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	448.21	...	-0.86	...
European ‡@	2895.48	...	-7.01	...
Financial Opps ‡@	723.08	...	+4.06	1.13
Income Trust ‡@	495.77	...	+4.07	4.59
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	233.06	...	+0.73	3.65
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	555.93	...	+2.38	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	341.10	...	+0.82	3.12
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	395.82	...	+1.59	...
UK Growth ‡@	256.62	...	+0.59	0.89
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	209.82	...	+1.26	2.24

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	532.00	...	+0.90	...
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	340.30	...	+0.60	2.49
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	128.50	...	+0.40	2.62
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	58.97	...	+0.16	2.65
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	108.50	...	-0.20	0.83
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	107.80	...	-0.60	0.04
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	125.30	...	+0.10	5.57
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	74.23	...	+0.89	1.68
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	196.60	...	+1.10	3.09
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	347.20	...	+1.70	...
UK Index Dist ‡@	165.00	...	+0.90	...
US Ind Acc ‡@	870.70	...	-0.20	0.86
Worldwide Acc ‡@	338.70	...	+0.60	0.80

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1401.45	...	+5.71	6.08

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	652.83	...	+2.51	5.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	71.08	...	+0.08	3.28
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.92	...	+0.03	5.90
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	107.38	...	-0.07	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	74.96	...	+0.37	...
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.65	...	-0.06	3.48
UK Select A Inc ‡	2693.80	...	+16.07	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.63	...	+0.07	4.34
Dividend Inc ‡	49.47	...	-0.25	6.47
Recovery A Inc ‡	103.69	...	+0.35	...
Sml Cos Inc ‡	316.73	...	-0.60	2.73

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.14	...	-0.26	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.18	84.18	+0.10	4.60
High Income Acc	241.40	241.40	+0.30	4.47
UK 100 Comp Acc @	457.50	457.50	+3.30	2.98
UK 100 Cos @	219.80	219.80	+1.50	3.05
UK Select Pflo @	330.50	330.50	+2.40	3.29
UK Selection Port Acc @	695.60	695.60	+5.20	3.63
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	947.70	947.70	+0.20	1.54
Wwide Mgd @	548.70	548.70	+0.10	0.56

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	790.39	...	+5.02	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	785.47	...	+4.99	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	938.75	...	+1.93	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	853.50	...	+1.75	4.42
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	936.98	...	+1.92	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	851.90	...	+1.75	4.42
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	940.44	...	+1.85	1.80
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	913.71	...	+1.79	1.82
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	938.90	...	+1.85	1.74
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	913.43	...	+1.79	1.74
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1326.31	...	+1.08	4.02
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1868.01	...	+1.52	3.99
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1416.73	...	+1.15	4.10
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	14057.31	...	+15.19	0.76
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1630.15	...	-3.13	0.74
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1550.07	...	-2.97	0.75
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3832.43	...	+4.14	0.77
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	594.55	...	+6.16	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	594.55	...	+6.16	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	591.05	...	+6.12	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	591.05	...	+6.12	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1228.04	...	-1.98	0.52
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1301.65	...	+1.99	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1323.40	...	+2.01	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1225.20	...	-1.99	0.38
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1331.54	...	+2.03	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	118.96	...	+0.31	3.72
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	91.76	...	+0.24	3.80
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2527.73	...	+6.62	3.46
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1294.24	...	+3.39	3.55
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	935.03	...	-0.51	3.25
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	880.48	...	-0.49	3.34
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	929.91	...	-0.51	3.06
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	880.07	...	-0.49	3.12
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1590.15	...	+20.82	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	905.40	...	+8.71	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1688.99	...	+22.11	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	945.76	...	+9.09	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	229.60	...	-0.40	1.78
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	192.50	...	-0.20	5.25
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	263.90	263.90	+1.10	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	461.40	...	-0.40	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	243.00	...	-0.20	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	0.56
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	...
Mutual Far Eastern	885.49	934.55	+4.34	1.17
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	...
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3341.00	...	+22.00	2.14

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	386.70	...	+0.50	...
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	191.50	...	+0.20	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	275.90	...	-0.50	2.82
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	-0.20	2.86
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	367.10	...	-0.50	1.85
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	237.60	...	+0.20	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	68.22	...	+0.05	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	377.90	...	+0.70	3.98
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	114.20	...	+0.20	4.09
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	186.20	...	-0.10	3.80
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.83	...	-0.05	3.88
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	197.30	...	+0.50	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2276.00	...	+7.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	427.10	...	+0.50	...
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	190.40	...	+0.20	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	127.40	...	+0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.68	...	+0.11	1.43
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.74	...	+0.06	1.44
AAA Income Acc ‡@	95.69	...	+0.12	1.84
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	205.80	...	+1.40	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	152.80	...	+0.40	3.47
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.74	...	+0.11	3.55
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	148.90	...	+0.80	1.39
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	196.50	...	+1.00	1.36
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	170.90	...	+1.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	147.90	...	+0.10	4.55
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.41	...	+0.02	4.69
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	360.50	...	+2.30	...
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	263.10	...	+0.70	4.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	69.08	...	+0.17	4.82
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	194.30	...	-0.20	...
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	712.90	...	+0.80	0.69

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.38	...
Balanced A Inc ‡@	120.52	...	+0.33	...
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.03	...	+0.09	1.93
Cautious A Inc ‡@	94.73	...	+0.07	1.95
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	337.30	...	+1.41	...
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	301.41	...	+1.26	...
Growth A Acc ‡@	345.00	...	+1.20	...
Income A Acc ‡@	247.22	...	+0.50	1.86
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	129.59	...	+0.73	1.51

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.57	...	+0.03	4.51
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.93	...	+0.28	3.68
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.76	...	+0.12	2.89
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.70	...	+0.13	2.56
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	40.97	...	+0.12	2.57
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.11	...	+0.09	4.01
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	97.32	...	+0.30	3.56
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	91.43	...	+0.35	...
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	181.79	...	+0.72	1.90
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	67.07	...	+0.32	4.36
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	133.75	...	+0.57	...
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	337.39	...	+0.51	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	891.60	891.60	+0.20	0.96
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
258.74	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	240.13	+1.11	1.01	0.79
118.43	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	92.81	+ .49	...	1.10
109.65	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	83.82	+ .51	...	1.13
120.11	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	90.59	+ .48	0.69	1.17
108.35	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	79.46	+ .47	...	1.26
108.18	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	76.95	+ .51	...	1.31
124.37	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	88.24	+ .58	0.87	1.32
108.03	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	74.63	+ .54	...	1.32
118.53	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	81.63	+ .62	...	1.32
112.12	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	75.01	+ .61	...	1.30
149.39	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	99.63	+ .78	1.38	1.26
110.05	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	90.54	+ .40	...	0.89
125.95	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	102.26	+ .47	1.16	0.95
109.66	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	86.32	+ .45	...	1.08
114.09	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	69.90	+ .64	...	1.23
129.79	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	67.20	+ .77	...	1.05
148.46	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	70.67	+ .82	...	0.85
105.10	95.63	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	97.56	+ .19	...	1.11
112.78	99.63	Tr IL 1¼% 27	102.15	+ .28	1.34	0.73
107.49	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.39	+ .33	...	0.67
107.59	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	96.95	+ .36	...	0.69
351.63	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	337.11	+1.20	1.92	0.61
110.40	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	96.91	+ .37	...	0.52
122.00	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	105.77	+ .45	1.18	0.60
116.81	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	99.95	+ .45	...	0.75
105.03	97.72	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	98.55	+ .06	...	2.94
380.26	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	377.53	+ .17	1.43	2.46
117.10	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	69.04	+ .65	...	1.23
132.13	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	75.52	+ .70	...	1.17
126.92	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	67.62	+ .72	...	1.08

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
102.68	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	83.07	+ .56	...	4.77
70.13	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	54.00	+ .47	...	4.74
74.08	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	56.34	+ .46	...	4.72
117.52	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	92.47	+ .63	4.60	4.75
53.35	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	38.11	+ .34	...	4.68
117.50	98.29	Tr 4¾% 38	101.22	+ .58	4.69	4.64
72.59	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	61.44	+ .43	...	4.67
111.29	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	95.18	+ .55	4.47	4.68
112.08	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	94.62	+ .54	...	4.71
71.44	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	58.36	+ .41	...	4.69
98.61	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	80.45	+ .53	...	4.76
117.12	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	97.09	+ .55	4.63	4.73
107.61	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	72.51	+ .60	...	1.32
63.87	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	46.74	+ .38	...	4.70
110.80	82.24	Tr 3¾% 52	84.69	+ .55	...	4.73
67.79	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	49.06	+ .39	...	4.68
70.42	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	50.41	+ .40	...	4.66
115.49	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	92.66	+ .59	4.59	4.78
61.15	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	47.14	+ .39	...	4.73
123.23	90.07	Tr 4¼% 55	92.87	+ .62	4.58	4.68
91.47	59.83	Tr 2½% 65	62.02	+ .45	...	4.53
116.13	77.61	Tr 3½% 68	80.13	+ .55	...	4.54
70.95	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	44.92	+ .38	...	4.38
57.59	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	35.05	+ .33	...	4.29
103.74	81.74	Tr 3¾% 53	84.26	+ .54	...	4.74
73.50	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	51.45	+ .41	...	4.59
122.75	86.40	Tr 4% 60	89.12	+ .61	...	4.62
46.24	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.42	+ .30	...	4.38

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
93.52	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.58	+ .27	...	4.37
87.71	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.66	+ .29	...	4.32
82.38	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.02	+ .35	...	4.33
113.13	100.56	Tr 4¾% 30	102.61	+ .41	4.63	4.33
79.47	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	72.89	+ .35	...	4.35
83.95	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.47	+ .38	...	4.39
110.34	97.27	Tr 4¼% 32	99.43	+ .44	4.27	4.33
101.14	88.88	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	91.11	+ .46	...	4.42
79.92	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	71.85	+ .42	...	4.42
116.96	104.85	Tr 6% 28	107.28	+ .31	5.59	4.43
86.40	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.24	+ .29	...	4.46
113.35	97.71	Tr 4½% 34	100.20	+ .51	4.49	4.48
81.78	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	70.74	+ .46	...	4.61
91.05	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.93	+ .20	...	4.59
103.82	95.72	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.04	+ .20	...	4.76
95.52	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.93	+ .17	...	4.54
93.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.72	+ .21	...	4.47
106.12	96.63	Tr 4¼% 27	99.06	+ .23	4.29	4.50
87.24	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	83.00	+ .24	...	4.44
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	90.49	+ .52	...	4.67
73.11	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	64.63	+ .43	...	4.50
110.66	94.67	Tr 4¼% 36	97.38	+ .55	4.36	4.53

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
94.97	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.17	+ .09	...	4.78
98.17	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	98.17	+ .02	...	5.00
97.59	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.59	+ .02	...	5.08
97.82	92.80	Tr 2% 25	94.70	+ .09	...	4.84
100.88	95.02	Tr 3½% 25	96.99	+ .13	...	5.02
92.38	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.11	+ .14	...	4.56
99.57	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.82	+ .02	...	5.07
104.69	99.24	Tr 5% 25	100.13	+ .07	4.99	4.91
94.34	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.88	+ .07	...	4.89

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

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Belfast's rare earth metal plant to challenge Beijing

An Australia-based rare earth metal company has set up a magnet recycling plant in Northern Ireland to wean the West off Chinese dominance in renewable energy batteries (Max Kendix writes).

Ionic Rare Earths will use rare metals from decommissioned turbines in a new plant in Belfast, converting them into magnets for use by Ford in its production of electric vehicles in Britain.

The industry for rare earth metals, which are also used in iPhones, fighter jets, medical imaging machines and fibre optics, is dominated by China.

Tim Harrison, the chief executive of Ionic, said: "China controls 94 per cent of global magnet capability and this is increasingly identified as a significant risk to advanced manufacturing in western economies."

Magnets made from rare earth metals are lighter and can withstand higher temperatures than traditional magnets. They are used to turn power into motion and at present are mined and processed almost entirely in China, which also has developed recycling plants. The sites use a chemical process called hydrometallurgy, which extracts the individual metals from magnets.

The Belfast plant is being supported by the British government, which, along with the Advanced Propulsion Centre, a non-profit group, provided £1.7 million in support.

Harrison warned that an increasingly fractious relationship in China could lead to a government-backed attempt to build the rare earth industry at an unsustainable pace. In July China said it would control exports of gallium and germanium, two key metals used in semiconductors.

"It's going to take time and substantial investment to catch up with China," he said. "Going from nought to 100 in a short space of time is likely to cost a lot of money, it's likely to have a lot of scale-up risk and delays."



FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rare earth magnets are used in wind turbines; Ionic makes them from crushed metals, inset

Actuaries' body shake-up on hold

Alex Ralph, Max Kendix

The body that regulates actuaries has been forced to suspend an overhaul of its governance after a revolt from members and amid a power struggle over its future.

The governing council of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries had recently approved a shake-up as part of changes after an independent investigation found its former president had bullied its present chief executive.

The investigation commissioned by the body, which represents and regulates more than 30,000 members, upheld a formal grievance last year that Tan Suee Chieh, 64, its former president, had bullied Stephen Mann, 57, its chief executive, The Times revealed in July.

The investigation by Stephen Sidebottom, chairman of the Institute of Risk Management, made a series of recommendations, including a full review of the institute's governance.

The governance changes, designed to "strengthen and modernise" the institute, were voted for by its council in June and were due to take effect in the first half of next year. They included its existing management board being reconstituted as a new unitary board and its council, while remaining the "ultimate decision-making body", delegating its oversight, strategy, planning and reporting responsibilities to the board.

However, before its delayed annual general meeting a week ago, the institute was forced into an "embarrassing" climbdown, despite last-ditch attempts to convince members.

It had received "unprecedented" written objections from 194 members, requiring its council to reconsider. Those members accused the institute of a lack of transparency and accountability and of failing to communicate the changes fully. Concerns included that the proposals delegated too much power from the council to the board, which also would not have a majority of actuary members.

At a meeting at the start of the month, the council opted to "pause its deliberations" until the new council had been established after its annual meeting.

One insider said it was "embarrassing, given how overwhelmingly the changes were approved just over two months ago".

In a statement before the election of the new council last week, Matt Saker, 54, the institute's outgoing president, and Kalpana Shah, 54, his successor and a non-executive of Just Group, the FTSE 250 financial services business, said: "While council remains supportive of, and strongly advocates for, the need for the governance reforms as a whole, it will be for the newly elected council to progress these reforms to the next stage and it is appropriate that it has the opportunity to consider the matter fully.

"Council will take this forward as a priority following the AGM."

The institute is a professional body for the education, development and regulation of actuaries based in the UK and internationally. It was formed through the merger of the Institute of Actuaries in England and the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland in 2010. Its role includes setting disciplinary standards for its members, administering professional standards and ensuring the public has confidence in the work of actuaries.

The latest unrest at the institute comes after outrage at its nominations committee this year deeming Tan, a former boss of Prudential in Singapore, to be fit and proper to stand for election to its council, despite the findings of the bullying investigation.

Tan said in July that the allegations were "totally unfounded" and he claimed that they stemmed from "inbuilt cultural and racial biases in the IFoA which go to the heart of the problems of the organisation". He said he therefore had "taken the difficult decision to withdraw my candidacy".

The institute has strongly rejected "any suggestion that the grievance or investigation were in any way driven by cultural or racial differences".



Emma Powell **Tempus**
Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Market darling is losing its sparkle

FEVER-TREE

Market cap	Half-year pre-tax profit
£1.52 billion	£1.4 million

Fever-Tree has a problem with managing expectations. A series of profit warnings has driven the former stock market darling's shares down by more than half over the past five years. And now the fancy tonic maker has done it again, cutting its revenue guidance to between £380 million and £390 million, from the £390 million to £420 million suggested previously. This time weak demand in the UK has sapped sales, which the group blames on a bad British summer.

In reality, it will add to doubts over whether the company is edging closer towards saturation point in a mixers market where it already has a 45 per cent share — flat on the same point last year.

Sales volumes in Britain during the first six months of the year fell back, but higher prices made up the slack, pushing up revenue by 1 per cent. That is not expected to suffice for the rest of the year, which means that revenue is expected to fall by between 2 per cent and 4 per cent. Its adjusted profit guidance is characteristically wide, set to land anywhere between £30 million and £36 million this year, again lower than the £36 million to £42 million that had been flagged.

On the cost line, there could be some easy wins. Spending on marketing and promotion this year will be weighted towards the first half, which means that a depressed adjusted margin before interest, taxes and other charges of 5.8 per cent could be due a recovery in the second half of 2023. That was less than half the margin recorded over the same period last year.

Heavy spending on pushing further into the vast American market and maintaining share in the more mature British and European territories has amplified inflationary cost pressures. Those, too, should fall away next year.

Tim Warrillow, Fever-Tree's founder and boss, has dangled a 15 per cent adjusted profit margin for next year, higher than the 13.5 per cent that analysts had expected. Transatlantic freight prices have come down; the bulk of energy costs have been hedged for next year; and, more importantly, glass supplies for next year are at a lower price. But investors might want to view the promise of a far better margin next year with scepticism. True, inflation might be less of a headache, but sales prospects still look shaky. The United States might now be the biggest contributor to revenue, but what happens at home matters. Britain is a big cash cow, so any weakness here stands to have an outsized impact on the group's wider profitability.

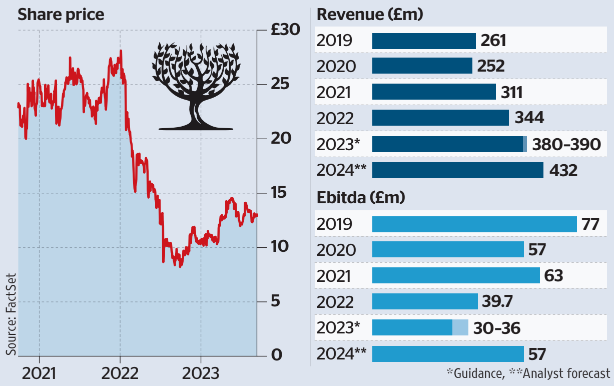
There's also the question of whether it pulls off a smooth switch from third-party distribution in Australia to selling directly to its retail and on-trade customers.

Fever-Tree's inconsistency is made more problematic by the weight of expectation still baked into the share price, which equates to almost 47 times forward earnings. The only real justification for such a racy multiple is a potential takeover of the drinks maker by a rival seeking to grab a slice of the US premium mixers market.

The stakes in America are high, as Fever-Tree throws cash at taking market share. It is managing to do that, with a 5 per cent slice of the retail mixers market over the 17 weeks to mid-June, according to figures from Nielsen, up from 4.3 per cent over the same period last year. Of the 40 per cent US revenue growth in the first half, only five percentage points came via price inflation.

The strategy is not simply to win more supply accounts but also to launch new flavours and package sizes. Fever-Tree does not disclose profitability by market, but America is thought to be lossmaking because of the sheer scale of the outlay on expansion.

In need of a tonic



ADVICE Avoid
WHY Shares look overvalued given the risk that it may fail to meet margin guidance

DOWLAIS

Market cap	Half-year revenue
£1.78 billion	£2.55bn

There is a potentially sticky situation ahead for Dowlais. This week contracts between the United Auto Workers and General Motors, Ford and Stellantis are due to expire, which could lead to the start of strike action and weaker demand for parts made by the engineering group spun out of Melrose Industries.

Those three carmakers represent roughly 15 per cent of its revenue, a feature that has prevented Dowlais, which makes the drivetrain components for cars, from upgrading forecasts this year, despite a bullish first six months. Its maiden first-half trading figures showed a 10 per cent rise in revenue at constant currency rates and an improvement in the adjusted operating margin of 130 basis points to 6.3 per cent, as it works towards a target of 11 per cent.

The shares trade at just under eight times forward earnings, a fall from an already undemanding multiple of ten when it was listed in April.

The potential strike action is one source of uncertainty. Another is the semiconductor shortages that have held back vehicle production. Yet that paltry valuation ignores the recovery potential. Those shortages are easing, according to Liam Butterworth, the Dowlais boss, contributing to better sales volumes in the first half. A habit of chasing new business at the expense of profitability meant Dowlais inherited roughly £300 million of onerous contracts, which have been renegotiated. It is now in the middle of overhauling its manufacturing facilities, where it specialises in the sideshafts that transmit power to a car's axle and the wheels. Just over two thirds of orders came for electric vehicles, a record. Three new plants are now operational, although won't be running at full capacity until 2025.

Greater efficiency could partially mitigate any shortfall in production volumes. It has come at a cost, as capital expenditure roughly doubled to £122 million, but spending is set to fall next year. If you strip out demerger costs, it still managed free cashflow of £33 million, which should be roughly neutral for the full year. Net debt of 1.4 times adjusted profits is down from 1.5 at the time of the demerger. It has a low bar to surpass the market's expectations.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Cheap valuation does not reflect recovery potential

NEWS IN BRIEF

NatWest non-runner

Ewen Stevenson, former finance chief of NatWest, has signalled he is not interested in taking the top job at the taxpayer-owned bank, which is hunting for a new chief executive after the abrupt exit in July of Dame Alison Rose amid the Nigel Farage account closure scandal. Stevenson, who had been tipped as a possible candidate to replace Rose at the bank, was appointed yesterday as chairman of Serendipity Capital, a Singapore-based technology investment firm. "I'm not looking in the near term to take on a full-time executive role," he said.

Sky's Mills goes higher

Sky, Comcast's European pay-TV company, has appointed Barny Mills as the chief executive of Sky Deutschland, replacing Devesh Raj, who is moving to Britain to become chief operating officer of Sky UK. Mills, who has worked at Sky for 14 years and was promoted to chief financial officer of Sky Deutschland three years ago, would start as chief executive immediately, the company said. Dana Strong, Sky's chief executive, said Mills had "great commercial acumen".

DIY lifted by WFH

Wickes, the DIY retailer, said petrol and energy pressures on disposable income had started to unwind as it reported stable interim results. Revenue rose by 0.7 per cent to £827.7 million in the 26 weeks to July 1, but an update to its IT systems pushed pre-tax profit down 37 per cent to £21.1 million. The company said it was on track to hit full-year forecasts as hybrid working encouraged home improvement projects. Its shares closed up 5p, or 3.5 per cent, at 143½p.

Optimism boosts US

Money managers are more optimistic about the global economy and are pouring cash into American and Japanese stocks. A monthly global survey by Bank of America Merrill Lynch found nearly three quarters of money managers believed the United States would achieve a "soft" or "no" landing, where inflation will come back to authorities' target without crashing the economy. Japan has finally lifted its chronically low inflation.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	34645.99 (-17.73)
Nasdaq Composite	13773.62 (-144.28)
S&P 500	4461.90 (-25.56)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	32776.37 (+308.61)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18025.89 (-70.56)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	736.69 (-2.20)
Sydney	
AO	7402.90 (+15.10)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15715.53 (-85.46)
Singapore	
Straits	3214.46 (-3.82)
Brussels	
BEL20	3664.01 (-23.95)
Paris	
CAC-40	7252.88 (-25.39)
Zurich	
SMI Index	10987.13 (+14.92)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4242.27 (-12.06)
London	
FTSE 100	7527.53 (+30.66)
FTSE 250	18542.30 (+19.86)
FTSE 350	4140.11 (+15.12)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3595.12 (-2.34)
FTSE All-Shares	4097.97 (+14.74)
FTSE Non Financials	5002.92 (+12.09)
techMARK 100	6423.98 (-0.63)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2487 (-0.0020)
Euro	1.1633 (-0.0003)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	82.02 (+0.08)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.90 Jul (2015 = 100)
RPI	374.20 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	371.90 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 23	94.290	94.290	94.250	94.800	40	322
	Dec 23	94.280	94.970	94.270	94.780	160667	512495
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 23	96.145	96.155	96.105	96.130	270289	636762
	Dec 23	96.090	96.100	96.050	96.075	201866	607122
	Mar 24	96.160	96.165	96.115	96.140	106628	537904
	Jun 24	96.320	96.325	96.265	96.290	97199	482582
	Sep 24	96.515	96.530	96.460	96.490	79262	215067
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
FTSE100	Sep 23	7515.0	7557.5	7503.0	7535.5	298509	360326
	Dec 23	7573.5	7616.0	7562.5	7594.5	246920	277100
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 23				5736.5		
	Dec 23				5763.0		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	93.23	+1.44
BFOE(Nov)	92.13	+1.42
BFOE(Dec)	91.42	+1.29
WTI(Nov)	88.16	+1.50
WTI(Dec)	87.36	+1.42

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	977.00	981.00	-58.00
Gasoil EEC	996.00	997.00	-35.75
3.5 Fuel Oil	565.00	571.00	+2.00
Naphtha	708.00	722.00	+20.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Sep	999.00-903.00	Dec	899.00-898.50
Oct	969.00-968.50	Jan	882.25-881.75
Nov	934.75-934.25		Volume: 676509

Brent (9.00pm)

Nov	92.18-92.16	Feb	89.81-89.78
Dec	91.45-91.44	Mar	89.01-88.98
Jan	90.63-90.61		Volume: 2136208

LIFFE

Cocoa

Sep	3013-2999	Dec	2776-2768
Dec	3037-3035	Mar	2722-2718
Mar	2987-2983	May	2409-2588
May	2906-2901		
Jul	2839-2805		
Sep	2820-2807		Volume: 69663

RobustaCoffee

Sep	2640-2550	May	2266-2247
Nov	2431-2430	Jul	2284-2100
Jan	2336-2321		
Mar	2281-2265		Volume: 16720

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		May	708.10-705.60
		Aug	679.00-676.50
Oct	749.50-741.00	Oct	654.40-651.10
Dec	729.20-727.70	Dec	647.00-618.50
Mar	722.70-720.40		Volume: 76764

JOHN G MABANGLO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK



Oracle may see trouble in its future

It used to be that people would queue up to hear what an oracle would tell them, but an update yesterday by the eponymous technology group had investors running for the hills.

A weak forecast from Oracle Corporation suggested that competition in the cloud computing industry and a digital spending pullback were weighing on its revenue growth.

Moreover, lower revenue in the first quarter than had been expected and a below-estimate forecast for the second suggested that the boost from generative artificial intelligence, the hottest topic in today's technology sector, would take longer to materialise.

Oracle, co-founded by Larry Ellison, 79, above, and known for its database software, has been playing catch-up with cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft's Azure and Alphabet's Google Cloud.

Safra Catz, 61, Oracle's chief executive, also warned of near-term weakness in revenue growth at the Cerner health records business, which Oracle bought for $28.3 billion last year.

"We continue to believe high single-digit growth might be unsustainable for Oracle, given Cerner integration risks and formidable data center competition," Gil Luria, an analyst at DA Davidson, a wealth management firm, said as he cut his price target on the stock by 17 per cent to $105.

Shares in Oracle fell by 13.5 per cent, or $17.11, to close at $109.60 in New York.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
JTC Strong half-year results	8.7%
Associated British Foods Raises profit outlook	5.4%
Watches of Switzerland Goldman Sachs upgrades to "buy"	3.3%
Ithaca Energy Acquires Shell's strake in UK Cambo field	3.0%
Syncona Investors move in on share price weakness	2.0%
Persimmon Worrying jump in mortgage arrears	-1.4%
Antofagasta Weaker copper prices	-4.0%
Chemring Concerns full-year performance will not meet expectations	-6.1%
Dowlais Half-year results reveal uncertainties over potential car industry strike	-7.3%
Smurfit Kappa Agrees merger with WestRock	-9.8%

Chemring has to combat US defence order delays



***Jessica Newman* Market report**

Fears over whether Chemring will be able to deliver a full-year performance in line with the market's expectations cast a dark cloud over the defence group's share price yesterday.

Chemring, a maker and supplier of components with a range of military uses from pyrotechnics to explosives, revealed that trading had been resilient and its order book had strengthened in the first ten months of the year, but an admission that it would meet full-year expectations only if the US Department of Defence approved certain orders spooked investors.

The FTSE 250 company said the delivery was contingent on approval "subject to determination of the quality of raw material provided by a third-supplier", which is outside its control. These deliveries represent about £25 million of revenue and will be recognised once the department gives the thumbs-up.

Failure to get that approval by the end of the year would equate to a loss of about £8 million to £10 million in adjusted operating profit, analysts at Jefferies said. While those analysts are hopeful that the revenue and profit would be recognised in the next financial year, they believe "alternative scenarios are plausible".

All that uncertainty was reflected in Chemring's share price, which fell 18½p, or 6.1 per cent, to 286p. And Chemring wasn't the only one being punished by the market. A warning from **Dowlais** that potential strike action could weigh on demand in the second half sent the engineering group down 9¼p,or 7.3 per cent, to 118¾p. Traders also threw away their shares in **Smurfit Kappa**, off 300p, or 9.8 per cent, to £27.68, after the FTSE 100 paper and packaging group agreed to merge with WestRock, an American rival.

Still, the FTSE 100, buoyed by retailers, oil majors and banks, finished higher for a fourth day in a row, putting on a further 30.66 points, or 0.4 per cent, to close at 7,527.53. Joining **Associated British Foods** — which rose 107p, or 5.4 per cent, to £21.08 after the Primark owner lifted its full-year guidance — was **Sainsbury's**, up 3¾p, or 1.4 per cent, at 272¾p as the market cheered fresh data revealing that grocery prices inflation had dropped to its lowest level in more than a year. **BP** flowed 5½p, or 1.1 per cent, higher to 522¾p as oil prices rose, with Brent crude, the international benchmark, climbing above $92 a barrel.

Forecast-beating half-year results from **JTC** and a bullish outlook pushed shares in the global fund manager up 58½p, or 8.7 per cent, to 733p. JTC was the biggest riser in the FTSE 250, which ended the day up 19.86 points, or 0.1 per cent, at 18,542.30.

Investors tried on **Watches of Switzerland** on advice from Goldman Sachs, lifting the retailer's shares 19½p, or 3.3 per cent, to 618½p. The bank's analysts reckon the market has "misunderstood" the impact Rolex's acquisition of Bucherer will have on the FTSE 250 company.

Elsewhere, **hVIVO**'s shares settled at a six-month high of 19½p, after rising 1¼p, or 6.9 per cent, as the Aim-listed drugs trial operator hailed "another period of excellent growth".

Shares in **Equals Group** advanced 6p, or 6 per cent, to 106p as the payments group said it would pay a maiden dividend of 1.5p after reporting a big jump in pre-tax profits. However, **Ocean Harvest Technology Group**, the seaweed ingredients developer that was floated in April, dropped 2p, or 14 per cent, to 12¼p — the shares' lowest price on record — after unveiling a pre-tax loss of €2.2 million.

Wall Street report

Rising oil prices raised concerns about persistent price pressures before today's inflation data and the prospect of another rate rise. The Dow Jones industrial average reversed gains to close 17.73 points, or 0.1 per cent, lower at 34,645.99.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Metro's setback on risk model

Bosses at Metro Bank face a setback in their efforts to revive the lender after revealing that regulators are blocking their efforts to free up capital (Ben Martin writes).

Metro has been seeking to change the credit risk model it is required to use to calculate the amount of capital it must hold against its residential mortgage book. By moving from the standard model to the so-called advanced internal rating-based approach that the Bank of England allows big lenders to use, Metro likely would be able to release capital. This would lift profitability and provide a boost to a turnaround being pursued by Dan Frumkin, 59, its chief executive.

However, Metro revealed that the Bank's Prudential Regulation Authority had rejected the lender's attempt to change models, despite "significant work to date on the company's [advanced internal rating-based] application". This rattled Metro's investors, who sent the bank's shares tumbling by more than 20 per cent, or 21p, to 80¼p.

"The PRA has indicated that at this stage more work is required by the company," the lender said, adding there was "no certainty" that approval would be obtained by Metro.



Metro has sought to challenge banking rivals on the high street

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov	184.00	Jan	unq	Mar	unq
May	194.25	Jul	unq	Volume: 1216	

London Metal Exchange (Official)

	Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	8337.0-8337.5	8364.0-8365.0	8435.0-8445.0
Lead ($/tonne)	2286.0-2288.0	2232.0-2233.0	2225.0-2230.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2473.5-2474.0	2499.0-2500.0	2530.0-2535.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2152.5-2153.0	2198.5-2199.0	2340.0-2345.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	19820.0-19830.0	20020.0-20025.0	21145.0-21195.0
Tin ($/tonne)	25200.0-25205.0	25425.0-25475.0	25070.0-25120.0 (15mth)

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open $1921.52

Close $1913.99-1914.13 **High** $1924.23

Low $1908.04

AM $1926.60 **PM** $1924.95

Platinum $ (£)

Silver $23.11 (£18.51)

Palladium $ (£)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.58	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.25 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6733-8.6954	8.6774-8.6793	157ds	457ds
Euro	1.1666-1.1629	1.1635-1.1631	12pr	36pr
Montreal	1.6887-1.7004	1.6921-1.6921	7ds	21ds
New York	1.2458-1.2520	1.2485-1.2487	1pr	1pr
Oslo	13.294-13.346	13.326-13.333	111ds	311ds
Stockholm	13.813-13.893	13.858-13.864	207ds	562ds
Tokyo	182.98-183.86	183.64-183.65	93ds	264ds
Zurich	1.1113-1.1161	1.1126-1.1127	37ds	106ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5563-1.5564
Canada	1.3552-1.3552
Denmark	6.9500-6.9507
Euro	0.9317-0.9317
Hong Kong	7.8284-7.8286
Japan	147.08-147.08
Malaysia	4.6745-4.6795
Norway	10.673-10.679
Singapore	1.3615-1.3617
Sweden	11.099-11.102
Switzerland	0.8909-0.8913

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	436.99-437.00
Australia dollar	1.9433-1.9434
Bahrain dinar	0.4674-0.4744
Brazil real	6.1718-6.1755
Euro	1.1633-1.1635
Hong Kong dollar	9.7742-9.7756
India rupee	103.47-103.47
Indonesia rupiah	19172-19175
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3844-0.3867
Malaysia ringgit	5.8285-5.8347
New Zealand dollar	2.1142-2.1148
Singapore dollar	1.6999-1.7003
S Africa rand	23.624-23.636
U A E dirham	4.5784-4.5796

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.943	
Canada $	1.690	-0.01
Denmark Kr	8.680	-0.02
Euro €	1.164	
Hong Kong $	9.760	-0.05
Hungary	448.095	+0.63
Indonesia	19122.890	-77.04
Israel Shk	4.746	-0.03
Japan Yen	183.519	+0.08
New Zealand $	2.113	
Norway Kr	13.339	
Poland	5.433	+0.01
Russia	118.116	-1.63
S Africa Rd	23.643	-0.02
Sweden Kr	13.864	
Switzerland Fr	1.113	
Turkey Lira	33.535	-0.15
USA $	1.247	-0.01

Rates supplied by Morningstar

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Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
395⅜	89½	Aston Martin Lag	336⅜	− 2½	...	-2.0

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236⅝	133	**Abrdn**‡	158	+ ¾	...	3.4
9¾	6⅛	Acuity RM♦	6⅞	...	...	...
2490	1881½	**Admiral**‡	2369	+ 13	...	12.0
49¾	14½	ADVFN♦	14½	...	...	2.5
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	298	+ 1⅜	...	27.9
27666⅝	21468⅞	Aon Corpn	26845¾	+ 121⅛	...	65.5
1075	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	950	...	...	21.0
12½	7	Argo Group♦	7	− ½	...	3.2
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	191⅛	+ 1⅝	...	6.5
1327⅝	1146¾	Aus New Z	1300⅝	− ½	...	10.1
462⅜	369⅝	**Aviva**‡	376¼	+ 1⅜	...	49.5
341½	211¾	Banco Santander	294½	+ 1½	...	7.0
3635	1944	Bank of Georgia	3470	+ 115	...	10.7
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**‡	153½	+ 3⅝	...	3.7
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
418	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	365	...	...	10.0
15⅛	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	12⅛	...	...	0.3
515	513	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
303⅜	166⅞	Bridgepoint‡	199	+ 3⅝	...	12.4
52½	24½	Cenkos Secs♦	29	...	...	5.9
321	262½	Chesnara	272½	+ ½	...	15.1
52¾	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
470	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	382	− 3	...	8.9
1131	796½	Close Bros	832½	+ 5	...	6.2
268	101	CMC Markets	101	− 2	...	3.0
1024¾	614⅜	Commerzbk	830⅝	+ 15⅞	...	42.5
1058⅝	651½	Deutsche Bk	845¼	...	...	9.9
235¼	133⅞	Direct Line Ins	175	− ⅞	...	7.2
78⅛	44⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	48⅝	− 3⅛	...	3.1
195	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	+ 5	...	8.8
1216⅛	840¾	FBD	1112⅞	...	...	4.9
70	65	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
75	53½	Frenkel Topping♦	57½	...	...	33.4
1000	602	Georgia Capital	1000	− 8	...	2.7
1065	670	Gresham House♦	1065	...	...	42.7
506	394	H&T Group♦‡	403	− 6	...	12.9
55½	33	Hansard Global	41⅝	...	...	14.3
949½	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	754½	+ 2⅛	...	13.4
175	117½	Helios Under♦	125	− 2½	...	...
654⅞	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	597¼	+ 7¼	...	13.0
836½	632½	IG Group	666½	− 1	...	6.8
883	500	Impax♦	528	− 2	...	17.4
1511½	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1335½	− 3	...	7.6
128	64⅜	IPF‡	122½	+ 1½	...	6.8
168	121½	International Public P'ship	129½	+ ½	...	16.6
546⅜	351½	Investec	468⅜	− 4½	...	11.7
340	253	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
75⅜	52	IP Group	57½	− ⅝	...	2.1
195	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	110½	+ 5½	...	7.9
151	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	98¼	+ 2	...	3.6
95¼	55⅞	Just Group‡	76	+ ½	...	...
664	461¾	Lancashire Holdings‡	600	+ 11½	...	...
265¾	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	220½	+ ½	...	6.7
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	− 2⅝	...	...
1290	587½	Liontrust	610	− 11	...	7.6
54	31	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**‡	42⅜	+ ⅞	...	5.9
32½	19⅜	LMS Capital‡	19½	...	...	8.4
8774	7104	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8334	+ 34	...	85.2
219¼	159⅞	**M&G**	199½	+ 1¼	...	62.3
286¾	202	Man‡	209⅛	− ⅜	...	8.3
29	8¼	Manx Fin♦	22	...	...	11.1
2¾	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	...	0.7
15791⅝	11956¼	Marsh McLn	15791⅝	+ 93¾	...	32.9
670	530	Mattioli Woods♦	620	+ 15	...	...
18½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	80¼	− 21	...	-0.5
1673⅛	1285¾	Nat Aust Bk	1498¼	+ 3	...	14.8
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**‡	230	+ 4	...	9.0
341	170⅜	Numis♦	334½	...	...	6.8
568½	322	Onesavings Bank‡	322	+ ⅜	...	4.2
611	377½	PayPoint‡	563	+ 1	...	17.6
3⅛	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
647	504¾	**Phoenix**	520⅜	+ 4¾	...	-6.0
1371½	797½	**Prudential**‡	891	− 1¾	...	14.4
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅛	...	...	-6.7
109⅜	71¼	Quilter‡	86⅜	− ½	...	61.7
97	44	Randall & Quilter♦	51½	− ½	...	76.7
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1732	+ 8	...	13.4
¾	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	1.8
2050	1395	Rockwood Strategic	1795	− 35	...	2.6
2570	1905	S & U	2250	+ 55	...	10.6
1⅝	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	½	...	...	-0.2
50	40	Schroder REIT	41¼	+ ¼	...	4.3
506¾	358¾	**Schroders**‡	404¾	− 1¼	...	1.8
1304½	850⅜	**St James Place**‡	857⅜	− 7½	...	16.3
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**‡	725⅜	+ 10⅜	...	16.2
8½	6½	Starvest♦	6½	...	...	-1.0
60	24½	STM Group♦‡	60	...	...	23.1
4082⅞	3164⅝	Sun Life Can	3956½	+ 21¼	...	10.1
9	5½	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9
2850	1634	TBC Bank Group‡	2735	− 5	...	8.0
12¼	3½	Tern♦	4¼	− ¼	...	3.2
57	48	Thames Ventures VCT‡	48	...	...	6.4
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	28	+ 2	...	17.0
243¾	103	Vanquis‡	119½	− ⅜	...	2.2
1245	900	Volvere♦	1110	− 15	...	...
34½	7	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
30	23	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
3887⅛	2903⅝	Wells Fargo	3407¼	+ 91¾	...	9.3
1252	1023⅝	Westpac	1109⅝	+ ½	...	15.0
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	27⅝	− ⅛	...	86.5
41101¼	34961⅝	Zurich Fincl	37514⅜	+ 260½	...	14.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
2058	1044½	**3I Group**	2038	+ 18	...	10.7
346	276⅝	3i Infrastructure	304	+ ½	...	-9.5
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1210	− 2	...	-13.8
99⅜	78	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	84	+ 1⅛	...	-27.3
1060	884	Alliance	1058	+ 6	...	-6.1
457	338¼	Asia Dragon Tr	359	− 1	...	-15.1
220	171½	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-8.5
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	200	+ 1¾	...	-11.4
330	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	216	− ½	...	-12.3
102⅛	73½	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	85⅜	− ⅛	...	-13.6
829	692	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	729	+ 7	...	-8.6
163¾	125⅜	Baillie Gifford SN	133¾	...	...	-11.8
180¾	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	159⅜	+ 2⅛	...	-14.3
98	64	Bal Comm Prop	71	+ ⅛	...	-39.5
107	90⅞	Bankers Inv Trst	97⅞	+ ¼	...	-12.9
5232	334	BH Macro	355½	+ 3	...	-11.4
1046	745⅜	Biotech Growth	794	+ 2	...	-7.2
149½	108	BlckRck Com Inc	116½	+ ¼	...	-10.1
148	123	BlckRck Fro Inv	141½	− 1	...	-8.1
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	523	− 4	...	-4.5
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	181½	...	...	-11.2
449	331½	BlckRck Latin Am	397½	+ 6½	...	-15.0
1450	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1266	− 2	...	-13.3
215	178	BlckRck Sustain Amer	181¾	− ¾	...	-7.4
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	562	+ 4	...	-8.1
774	538	BlckRck Wld Min	590	+ 3	...	-1.6
1321⅜	1115	Brown Adv US sm	1180	+ 7½	...	-16.2
1115	888	Brunner	1075	+ 5	...	-12.5
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3465	− 5	...	-31.6
432	366½	City of Lon IT	398	+ 2	...	1.3
121	60	Crystal Amber Fd♦	63	...	...	-35.3
534	384	CT Priv Eq Ord	498	− 8	...	-25.4
96	72	CT Property	73½	− 1¼	...	-14.5
317	256	CT UK Cap&Inc	292	+ 3½	...	-4.7
93	77	CT UK HIT B	80½	+ 1½	...	-8.5
89	71	CT UK HIT	81	+ 1	...	-7.0
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	317	+ 6	...	-9.5
590	476	Dunedin Entp	560	− 2½	...	-9.4
690	537	Edinburgh IT	660	+ 8	...	-9.9
195⅜	135⅛	Edin Wwide	150½	...	...	-16.2
336	273⅛	EP Global Opp	290	− 1	...	-19.5
97¾	74½	European Assets	86½	+ ⅜	...	-8.7
817	608	European Opp Trust	802	...	...	-10.9
992	825⅝	**F&C Invest Tr**	879	+ 3	...	-10.4
536	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	516	− 6	...	-4.7
299⅜	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	211½	+ 1	...	-11.0
649⅞	552⅝	FdltyEmrgMkt	588	− ⅜	...	-14.1
362	258½	Fidelity European Trust	346½	...	...	-4.9
187	154	Fidlty Jap Tru	169	+ 1	...	-10.8
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	270	+ 1½	...	-8.7
923	760⅛	Fins Gwth & Inc	870	+ 2	...	-4.6
107¾	68⅛	GCP Infrastructure	72½	+ 1	...	-34.8
39	24	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27⅛	...	...	-14.5
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	138⅞	+ ½	...	-16.3
201¼	161	Hansa Investment	184½	...	...	-41.3
193⅞	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	182	− 1	...	-41.9
2450	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2325	+ 15	...	-40.2
166¾	120½	Hend Euro Foc	160½	...	...	-10.9
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	163¾	+ ¼	...	-1.2
907	674¼	Hend Smlr	716	+ 7	...	-14.2
1966	1540	Herald	1748	− 10	...	-14.3
419⅝	316	HgCapital Trust	395	− 2½	...	-15.2
179	119⅝	HICL Infra	128	+ 1	...	-22.7
500	216	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1144	+ 14	...	-39.5
462½	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	382	− 7	...	-5.4
374	280	Invesco Asia Tr	322	− 2½	...	-9.5
173	141	Invesco Bond Inc	164	+ 1	...	1.6
155⅜	111	IPST Bal	117½	− 1½	...	-22.5
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-12.3
101	88	IPST Managed	93½	...	...	-15.0
177	141	IPST UK Eq	155	+ 1¼	...	-14.6
478	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	418	+ 1½	...	-8.4
814	657½	JPM American	811	+ 4	...	-1.7
402¼	294½	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	346	+ 2	...	-9.3
419	237½	JPM China	249	+ 2	...	-11.4
722	624	JPM Claverhs	660	+ 2	...	-4.9
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	− 1¾	...	186.0
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	106⅜	− ⅜	...	-7.0
449	339	JPM Euro disc	381½	...	...	-13.4
142½	108	JPM GEMI	127½	+ 1	...	-10.6
481	394	JPM GG&I	475	+ 3	...	1.3
898	764	JPM Indian	862	+ 2	...	-18.5
347	297	JPM Jap Sml Co	310	− 5	...	-11.9
521	416	JPM Japan	482	+ 2½	...	-7.8
974¾	735	JPM Mid Cap	886	− 5	...	-13.1
98	85¼	JPM Multi-asset G&I	91¾	...	...	-4.2
303	230	JPM Smllr Co	263	− 1	...	-13.2
228½	180½	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	213	...	...	-14.0
871	649	Law Debenture	812	+ 7	...	1.6
135	99	Lowland	112½	+ 1	...	-14.2
223	156¾	Majedie	182¾	...	...	-25.8
358	272⅛	M Currie Port	324	− 1½	...	-1.6
104½	85	Marwyn Val In	91½	...	...	-45.6
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	199⅛	+ ½	...	-13.4
606	480	Merchants	541	+ 4	...	0.2
733¾	639¾	Mid Wynd	713	+ 2	...	-1.8
1073	906	Monks Inv Tst	964	+ 4	...	-14.0
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	124⅜	− 2	...	-11.4
886	715	Murray Income Trust	822	+ 4	...	-9.2
275¾	225½	Murray Int	242	+ ½	...	-6.3
80⅛	70⅛	Nb Global Floating	73	...	...	-8.8
384	326	Pacific Assets	366	− 4	...	-7.3
287	229⅛	Pantheon Int	287	+ 4	...	-37.4
3115	2565	**Pershing Sq**	3046	+ 8	...	-35.2
492	458⅞	Personal Assets	466	...	...	-1.0
2340	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2260	+ 5	...	-14.1
196	115	Prem Glb & Inf	121	...	...	-8.5
148⅛	103½	Renewables Inf	107	+ ⅜	...	-19.1
2400	1784	RIT Cap Ptnr	1932	+ 10	...	-19.9
736	510	Riverstone	616	+ 11	...	-53.1
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	405	+ 1	...	-5.7
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	492	+ 3	...	-11.2
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	273	+ 4	...	-9.0
240	190	Schrod Jap Gwth	238	+ 3	...	-9.9
626	454	Schrod UKMid	542	+ 3	...	-13.5
19⅛	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	13¾	+ ¼	...	-45.8
543	434	Scot American	502	− 1	...	1.5
856¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	684	− 1½	...	-19.0
239¼	205	Secs Tst Scot	222	+ 4	...	-2.1
94¾	71	Sequoia Eco	83⅜	+ ¼	...	-10.8
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	234	+ 2	...	-6.0
166	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	148	− ⅜	...	-13.4
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	143½	+ ⅜	...	-12.6
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	66.6
362½	254	TR Property	282½	− 2½	...	-8.7
74	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	69	− ⅜	...	-2.6
200	122	Utilico Ord	130	...	...	-37.7
234	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	220	...	...	-14.7
697	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	621	+ 6	...	-17.8
237	199¾	Witan	223½	+ ½	...	-10.5
349½	296	Ww Health	312	...	...	-8.5



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
183½	135	Alumasc♦	162½	− 1	...	8.2
11⅛	8¾	Aseana Props	9⅛	− ¾	...	-4.6
64¾	43⅛	Assura‡	44½	...	...	8.9
2¾	1¾	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
393⅜	294½	Balfour Beatty	327½	+ 5⅛	...	15.5
506⅜	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	436¾	− 5	...	6.8
2500	1586½	Bellway	2140	− 20	...	6.4
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	4001	+ 23	...	10.4
1290	987	Big Yellow Group	998½	− 27½	...	6.5
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	350	...	...	28.4
277	198	Boot (Henry)	198	...	...	10.5
471⅜	297¼	Br Land	311¼	− 2	...	42.6
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
61⅜	43¼	Cap & Regnl‡	56	...	...	-0.4
2550	2350	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
25	1¾	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
155	106	Clarke T‡	136¼	− 3¼	...	9.8
261	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28	6	Craven House♦	13⅛	...	...	-0.2
4674	2858½	**CRH**	4285	− 84	...	17.8
2726	1812	Derwent London‡	1830	− 27	...	8.1
4⅝	3⅛	Dolphin Capital♦	4⅝	...	...	-3.2
28	19	First Prop♦	19	− ¼	...	...
45½	34½	Fletcher King♦	36½	...	...	...
42	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37½	+ 1¼	...	...
210	145	Galliford Try	199	...	...	44.2
357½	252½	Genuit Group‡	323½	+ 1½	...	19.6
490	335	Gleeson (MJ)	383	...	...	5.9
988⅝	630½	Grafton	901¾	+ 3¾	...	10.4
275⅛	205⅜	Grainger	234½	+ 1⅛	...	14.5
603½	382¾	Great Portland	411¾	− 4	...	-5.1
30½	17⅛	Hammerson‡	24¾	− ½	...	-2.6
136½	101	Harworth Gp	106½	+ 1	...	3.6
630	400	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
389	219	Helical PLC	219	− 1	...	5.2
1025	750	Highcroft Invs	845	...	...	3.6
201⅛	135¾	Ibstock‡	145	...	...	18.8
224	176	James Halstead♦	202	+ 2	...	21.5
856	591	Keller	769	− 4	...	8.9
6522¾	3850½	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	− 221⅞	...	24.4
743⅛	485¼	**Land Sec**‡	576⅜	− 3⅛	...	...
91	58	Life Science Reit	65	− ½	...	...
22	10½	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
212½	161¾	Londonmetric Property‡	174	...	...	3.7
62	45¼	Macau Prop Op	50½	...	...	-6.5
366½	225⅜	Marshalls	266⅛	− 1½	...	9.7
101	74	Michelmersh♦	89½	...	...	14.2
2010	1392	Morgan Sindall	2010	− 15	...	9.8
12500	10550	Mountview	10600	− 50	...	13.2
94½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	83	+ 1	...	-2.9
260	195	Palace Capital	249	− 1	...	11.9
335	260	Panther Securities♦	275	− 10	...	2.4
1531	968½	**Persimmon**	1023	− 14	...	4.1
3⅝	1⅜	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
138⅛	88¾	Primary Health Properties	94⅛	+ ⅝	...	9.6
35¼	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	29	...	...	3.8
545	372½	Redrow	473	− 3	...	5.8
1074	794	Safestore	794	− 11	...	4.5
1055	763½	Savills‡	922½	+ 7	...	9.2
6¼	5⅜	Secure Property♦	6	+ ⅝	...	15.8
946½	694	**Segro**‡	724⅜	− 5⅜	...	2.1
44⅜	27¾	SIG	35	+ ⅜	...	...
63	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	56⅛	...	...	...
91¾	66½	Sirius Real Estate	87⅛	− 1½	...	6.8
173½	160½	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
50	26½	Steppe Cement♦	26½	− ½	...	6.1
128¼	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	115⅛	+ ½	...	7.5
170½	121½	Town Centre	123	...	...	4.8
1082½	738	Travis Perkins	815	− 4½	...	7.9
170	123½	Tritax Big Box Reit	137⅞	− ¾	...	2.4
82	50¾	Tritax Eurobox	54⅞	+ ⅝	...	...
318	184½	Tyman	303	+ 4½	...	11.9
1070	791½	**Unite**	924	+ 3½	...	10.7
905	519½	Vistry Group	905	+ 4½	...	7.9
157	77½	Warehouse REIT‡	79⅝	− 1⅜	...	1.8
537	343⅜	Workspace Grp	477¾	− 7	...	-7.1
700	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	30½	− 1	...	11.3
880	652	Anglo-Eastern‡	746	+ 10	...	6.8
297½	147½	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
2114	1237	**AB Foods**	2108	+ 107	...	34.8
121	86	Bakkavor Group	102½	+ 1½	...	10.6
561	432	Barr (AG)	499	+ 11½	...	17.7
3⅞	¾	Bidstack Group♦	¾	...	...	-0.6
39	24½	Brand Architekts♦	28	− ½	...	-1.2
3509	2484½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2670	+ 31½	...	9.0
936	707½	Britvic	881½	+ 4	...	19.9
2641	1636	**Burberry**	2122	− 5	...	18.2
183¾	123⅜	C&C Grp	137¾	...	...	-8.2
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
149¾	92	Carr's Grp‡	130	+ ¾	...	16.0
525	255	Character Grp♦	267	...	...	4.7
1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1295	+ 10	...	...
2565	1840	**Coca Cola HBC**	2280	+ 9	...	18.2
840	610	Colefax♦	760	+ 10	...	13.4
3472	2586	Cranswick	3472	+ 6	...	18.3
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3857½	3147½	**Diageo**‡	3162	− 13½	...	24.3
1¼	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
908	670	Evans (M.P.)♦	734	+ 6	...	6.3
103½	77	Finsbury Food♦	89	− 2	...	10.6
11700	5690	Games Workshop	10540	+ 60	...	29.0
1326⅜	900⅞	Glanbia‡	1318¼	+ 9⅜	...	32.5
92¼	60¾	Greencore	79	− ¼	...	15.8
348	214	Headlam	230	+ 5	...	9.9
973	500	Hilton Food	726	+ 5	...	15.1
29	16	Hornby♦	16½	− ½	...	78.5
2185	1695	**Imperial Brands**‡	1763½	− 3½	...	5.9
1½	1	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+ ¼	...	7.9
8605½	6983⅞	Kerry Gp	7008½	− 141¾	...	19.4
44⅜	19	McBride	40¼	+ ¾	...	-7.1
295	200	Mulberry Group♦	200	...	...	8.2
1155	958	Nichols♦	1050	− 25	...	...
232	143	Norcros	149½	+ 1½	...	4.7
373⅛	270¼	Origin Ents♦	275¾	− 4¼	...	8.7
11⅝	...	Pittards♦#	5⅜	+ 1	...	2.5
512½	282	Portmeirion♦	293	− 1	...	12.4
⅞	½	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	153¾	PZ Cussons	159⅛	+ 1½	...	18.3
125	50¾	REA	51	− 1¼	...	-4.0
2	⅞	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
320	200	Tandem♦	210	...	...	3.0
724	512	Treatt	512	...	...	20.5
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2½	...	...	-1.6
5051	4451	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3838	**Unilever**	4036	− 12½	...	20.7
722	400	Victoria♦	581	+ 16	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	631	Avon Rubber	649	+ 4	...	...
394⅛	268½	Babcock	378⅜	− 13¾	...	-2.3
1044	714	**BAE**	1044	+ 5½	...	19.0
2150	1200	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
1850	1650	Braime Group♦	1850	+ 50	...	20.8
580	470	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
4½	1⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
419	279	Castings	335	...	...	16.1
5	2⅞	Chamberlin♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.2
34	14	Checkit♦	27	+ 1	...	-3.2
540	391	Cohort♦‡	505	+ 2	...	44.8
400	249	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1335	815	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
325	192¼	Dialight	232	+ 3	...	...
1249⅞	825½	Electrolux 'B'	839½	+ 4¼	...	6.3
182½	71	Feedback♦	71	− 16½	...	...
664	426	Gooch Hsego♦	509	− 3	...	37.7
4985	2550	Goodwin	4985	+ 60	...	27.5
2498	1974	**Halma**	2164	+ 5	...	31.3
1810	893	Hill & Smith	1750	+ 26	...	41.1
89	61	Holders Tech♦‡	61	...	...	3.7
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.5
1680	1089	**IMI**‡	1479	+ 6	...	20.2
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10200	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9000	...	...	45.4
101½	72½	LPA♦	87½	...	...	...
798¾	798½	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
543⅛	200⅜	**Melrose**	479¼	− 6⅛	...	...
323½	217	Morgan Advanced	240½	− 6½	...	10.1
325	191½	Mpac♦	191½	...	...	5.0
745	318	MS Intl♦	710	− 10	...	...
2855	1720	Oxford Inst‡	2240	...	...	30.6
1787⅛	1041	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
15½	11¼	PipeHawk♦	11½	...	...	24.6
71	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	31½	...	...	-2.6
4232	3342	Renishaw	3602	+ 16	...	20.5
31	20½	Renold♦	30½	− ⅛	...	10.8
224⅜	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	224⅜	+ ¾	...	...
1⅝	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork‡	301½	...	...	32.7
200	102	SDI Group♦	106	...	...	17.4
181⅛	111	Senior	166	− 3	...	28.9
75	48	Severfield‡	61	+ ⅜	...	10.8
14	2⅝	Six Hundred♦	2⅝	...	...	15.5
1554¼	1046⅝	SKF B	1300⅜	+ 7⅞	...	9.6
300	225	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	− 25	...	4.3
1797½	1470½	**Smiths**	1659	− 4	...	26.3
1435	986	Solid State♦‡	1330	+ 20	...	32.0
450	257	Somero Enter♦	297½	− 1½	...	6.6
3841	2690	Spectris	3323	+ 3	...	10.9
12350	9702	**Spirax-Sarco**	9800	− 76	...	30.8
57	26½	Surface Trsfms♦	32	...	...	...
3¾	2	Tanfield♦	3⅝	...	...	...
440	345½	Thorpe FW♦	385	...	...	26.7
2⅛	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
102½	48½	Transense Tech♦	97½	...	...	71.6
...	...	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
454⅛	302⅛	Vesuvius‡	436⅜	+ ½	...	11.6
1470	503	Videndum	503	+ 3	...	9.2
335	202	Volex♦	317	+ 2	...	17.3
2021	1404½	**Weir**	1904½	− 4½	...	32.1
2680	1464	XP Power‡	2210	+ 35	...	11.8
150	75	Zytronic♦	75	− 1½	...	25.0

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
290½	177⅛	AdvancedMedical♦	186⅛	+ ⅛	...	29.2
19¾	⅞	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	...	...	-3.2
74½	11	Angle♦	18½	− ½	...	-2.5
570	178½	Anpario♦	227½	...	...	11.9
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	10684	+ 182	...	...
248½	196⅝	**Convatec**‡	225⅜	+ ½	...	52.6
43	25⅜	Creighton	31½	...	...	6.0
3812	2520	Dechra Pharma	3798	− 8	...	56.7
1½	⅛	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	14⅛	− ½	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	111	+ 2	...	13.4
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	25⅞	...	...	7.3
65	35¾	Futura Medical♦	53	+ 1	...	...
3272	2132	Genus	2162	+ 42	...	38.4
1523	1296	**GSK**‡	1466½	− 2⅛	...	16.9
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.4
353½	259⅜	**Haleon**‡	323⅞	− ¾	...	...
2205	1190½	Hikma Pharms‡	2090	+ 17	...	15.6
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	233½	− 7	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	2	...	...	-0.6
7025	1365	Indivior	1821	+ 9	...	...
88½	42	Inspiration Health♦	44½	+ ½	...	6.8
39	17½	IXICO♦	19⅜	...	...	6.2
501	491½	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3
3½	1¼	N4 Pharma♦	1¼	...	...	-1.5

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
71½	34⅜	NIOX Group♦‡	67½	-⅜	...	67.6
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF89.67	+1.36	...	27.93
4	2	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
14	1⅞	Ovoca Bio♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.5
562	277	Oxford Biomedica	277	-10½	...	12.4
5	⅞	Physiomics♦	2¼	+½	...	-8.6
8½	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	5⅝	-⅛	...	...
6628	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	5776	-50	...	...
63½	15⅛	RUA Life Sciences♦	16¼	...	...	-1.5
217½	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	82½	...	...	...
1314½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1064½	-3	...	24.1
250	203	Spire Hcare	212	-½	...	...
23½	6¾	Synairgen♦	9¼	...	...	-0.4
70	48	Tissue Regenix♦	54	...	...	...
38	8	Totally♦‡	8	...	...	12.8
435	295	Tristel♦	380	+12½	...	78.3
20	6	ValiRx♦	6¼	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	70⅝	-¼	...	...
4636½	3333⅛	BASF	3805½	-61⅞	...	7.5
5361⅜	4068	Bayer DM50	4354⅝	-45½	...	50.8
175	46½	Biome Tech♦	157½	...	...	-5.2
2¾	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
...	...	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	75¼	-1	...	16.8
7218	5030	**Croda**‡	5030	-112	...	21.9
1035	575	Cropper (James)♦‡	750	+5	...	22.8
129	87⅝	Elementis	115⅜	...	...	...
19	11	Hardide♦	11½	...	...	-2.2
2373	1543	**Johnson Math**	1711	-37	...	21.5
1601	1180	**Mondi**‡	1286	-19	...	9.8
110	77½	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**‡	284½	-5⅞	...	16.1
738	531	Swire Pacific	596¾	+3	...	...
17¼	6⅝	Symph Environ♦	7½	-½	...	...
192⅝	45¼	Synthomer	45¼	-2½	...	0.9
2541⅜	2021⅜	Takeda Pharm	2541⅜	+64¾	...	14.2
7	1⅜	Velocys♦	1½	...	...	-1.8
1913	1338	Victrex	1401	-52	...	16.6
640	397½	Wynnstay Group♦	407½	-2½	...	9.3
410	233	Zotefoams‡	334	-6	...	20.0

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
130	51⅝	888 Hldgs	126¼	-1	...	9.3
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	670	-20	...	17.6
680	370	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
1356½	501⅜	Carnival	1096½	+19	...	-1.7
132½	108	Celtic♦	125	...	...	12.3
7	¼	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
424½	215⅛	Domino's Pizza‡	396⅛	+2⅜	...	20.2
1587½	1083	**Entain**‡	1159	-3	...	25.9
16725	9694	**Flutter Ent**	14175	-85	...	...
38	23	Gaming Realms♦	37½	+1	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
145	80	Hermes Pacific♦	80	-10	...	...
6168	4275	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6168	+46	...	57.7
1⅛	¾	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-5.8
236⅛	102	Mitch & Butlers	223	+2⅛	...	...
189½	82¾	On The Beach	104	+3⅛	...	-5.4
1435	1005	PPHE Hotels	1050	-25	...	-8.5
104⅜	52⅜	Rank Grp	84⅜	...	...	11.4
51⅛	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	49	-⅛	...	-9.2
50½	32½	Rotala♦	42½	+½	...	...
175	...	Sportech♦	67½	+5⅛	...	...
281⅛	184¾	SSP	232⅜	+2½	...	-4.5
5¾	1¾	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
295	62½	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	484½	+8	...	-5.0
2⅜	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	699½	+18	...	-6.5
3581	2285	**Whitbread**	3581	-2	...	...
1240	870	Young & Co - A♦	1120	-20	...	...
892	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	785	-7	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
88	68	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
52	21	Altitude Group♦	50	...	...	...
98	63½	Arcontech Grp♦	98	+1	...	13.5
281	176⅛	Ascential	206⅜	+5	...	...
669	486⅛	**Auto Trader**‡	599	-4½	...	29.5
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	408	+7	...	16.8
8	⅜	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-1.5
172½	87	Catalyst Media♦	117½	-2½	...	...
¼	...	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
58½	43	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
1818	643	Future	735	+½	...	12.6
196	144⅞	GlobalData♦‡	157½	+4	...	7.8
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	69⅜	IG Design Grp♦	150	+6	...	21.9
776	506½	**Informa**‡	739¾	-8	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	72⅝	+¼	...	7.8
9¾	4½	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
4	1½	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
171	83½	ME Group	160¾	+½	...	28.0
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
47	26½	Merit Grp♦	47	+2½	...	...
42½	1½	Mirada♦	1½	-1⅜	...	...
58	38½	Mission Group♦	42	...	...	7.1
280⅜	172⅜	Moneysupermarket	244⅛	+⅛	...	24.9
1732¾	1198⅛	News Corp A	1678⅞	-8¾	...	27.4
1770⅜	1223¾	News Corp B	1728⅝	-8¾	...	28.2
1112	554	Next 15 Group♦	621	...	...	...
995⅛	754	**Pearson**‡	877	-4¾	...	41.9
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	...	...	5.2
198	107½	Quarto	110	...	...	6.1
120⅝	66¼	Reach‡	71⅞	+¾	...	79.9
1½	¾	REACT Grp♦	1½	...	...	22.8
2722	2157	**Relx**	2718	+6	...	35.8
637¾	445⅜	**Rightmove**	553½	-3⅜	...	31.3
101⅞	65	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	...	...	...
315	192	STV Group	207	...	...	5.0
230	122½	System1 Group♦	215	...	...	10.2
2975	2257⅝	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2576⅛	+34⅞	...	14.1
2753¾	2129½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2375¼	+31¼	...	13.0
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.6
356	257	Wilmington	310	...	...	19.7
1051½	731¾	**WPP**	761½	-6⅜	...	14.5
112½	77½	Zinc Media♦	80½	+½	...	-5.0

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
¾	⅜	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
29½	11¼	AFC Energy♦	16	-½	...	...
31	20½	Afentra PLC♦#	24¼	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
½	⅛	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-5.8
87⅜	52½	Alumina	52½	-½	...	10.9
1¼	⅞	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
1¾	...	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
728599⅛	2648½	Anglo Amer Plat	2648½	+9	...	1.9
3672½	1970	**Anglo American**‡	2091½	+20	...	4.1
121	56½	Anglo Asian Mng♦	57	+6½	...	4.9
1805	1042½	**Antofagasta**‡	1449	-60½	...	14.9
4⅜	2⅜	Arc Minerals♦	3⅛	...	...	2.2
3½	2	Ariana Res♦	2¾	...	...	3.7
⅝	¼	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
2⅜	¾	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
1⅝	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅛	...	...	...
380	188	Atalaya Mine♦‡	350	+17	...	4.4
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
4¾	1⅜	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
...	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.7
2855	2052	BHP Group‡	2265½	+9½	...	9.9
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2	...	...	...
20⅜	13¼	Bougainville	16⅝	-¼	...	...
4½	⅞	BowLeven♦	1¾	...	...	-2.2
567½	430	**BP**‡	522¾	+5½	...	18.9
16⅝	6½	Cadence Min♦	7¾	...	...	0.7
2½	1½	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	25.0
1350	775	Caledonia Mining♦	795	+15	...	7.7
555¼	157⅜	Capricorn Energy	157⅜	-5½	...	1.2
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	3	...	...	91.1
125½	83	Centamin‡	86⅞	+¾	...	13.4
292½	175½	Cent Asia Metals♦	206	...	...	6.0
14½	5¼	Chaarat Gold♦	5¼	...	...	...
19⅞	13⅛	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13⅛	-¼	...	...
4	⅞	China Nonferr Gold♦	⅞	+⅛	...	-6.0
⅛	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.4
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	22½	...	...	...
⅜	⅛	Corcel♦	⅜	...	...	-0.4
10277⅛	75⅝	DRD Gold	75⅝	-1½	...	8.9
1⅛	¼	ECR Minerals♦	¼	...	...	-1.9
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.2
2184	1461	**Endeavour**‡	1547	+27	...	23.0
31½	14	EnQuest	15	+¼	...	0.9
7⅛	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	-⅛	...	...
2⅞	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	10.9
175	74¼	Ferrexpo	78¼	...	...	0.6
968	509⅛	**Fresnillo**‡	580⅛	+⅛	...	13.7
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	14¼	Galantas Gold♦	14¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	1⅞	GCM Resources♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.6
36⅝	15¾	Gem Diamonds	16⅝	-⅛	...	1.7
19½	8⅜	Getech♦	8⅜	-¼	...	-2.0
578	411⅜	**Glencore**‡	434⅝	-⅝	...	15.9
⅜	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.6
135104¾	1012⅞	Gold Fields	1012⅞	+15⅛	...	15.5
12½	6¼	Goldplat♦	6¼	-¼	...	4.7
8⅛	2⅛	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	...	...	-9.9
9⅛	6	Greatld Gld♦	6⅛	...	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	88	+6	...	9.7
235	90⅝	Gulf Keystone	92	-1¼	...	5.7
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13¼	+⅜	...	1.0
94⅞	51½	Hochschild	81⅛	+1⅝	...	7.8
172	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	...	...	...
351½	197⅜	Hunting PLC	258	+3	...	-6.5
¼	...	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
272	125	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
⅜	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
166	66¾	ITM Power♦	79½	+⅜	...	...
14	6¼	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅛	+⅛	...	6.0
4¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	4⅝	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...	...	-2.7
493	380½	Kenmare Res	434	+12	...	5.0
9	8⅝	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
20	8¼	Landore Res♦	9⅞	...	...	-2.2
½	...	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
15	10	Leeds Group♦	10	...	...	-1.6
8¾	3⅛	Lexington Gold♦	6	...	...	...
21½	7¼	MC Mining♦	7¾	...	...	-1.6
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.5
¼	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G	10⅝	-1	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
...	...	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅛	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.0
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
14½	3	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-4.5
20⅛	12	Pan African Res♦	14	...	...	4.5
121⅞	10½	Pantheon Res♦	22⅞	+⅞	...	...
67⅜	13	Parkmead Grp♦	17¼	-¼	...	-1.4
⅜	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.1
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	70⅛	+⅛	...	2.3
1⅞	⅞	Petrel Resources♦	1	...	...	-5.3
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	3½	...	...	...
125½	46	Petrofac	77⅝	+¼	...	-2.0
1	...	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
6½	5½	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
15¾	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	15½	+2	...	-3.8
350	150	Polymetal Intl#	215	+50	...	...
698	499	Porvair	608	+18	...	23.3
19¼	5¼	Prospex Energy♦	5¾	-¼	...	-7.6
14⅝	7½	Proton Motor Power S♦	8¼	+⅜	...	-1.5
3½	3¼	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	⅞	Quadrise♦	⅞	...	...	-3.6
21	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	...	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
½	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
6563½	4486	Rio Tinto Ltd	5873⅜	+88	...	6.1
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**‡	5002	+1	...	5.2
40	12½	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+1½	...	6.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
38½	21½	Serabi Gold♦	23	...	...	3.1
390	198⅜	Serica Energy♦	258¾	+2⅛	...	...
13½	8¾	Shanta Gold♦	9⅞	-¼	...	6.2
2604½	2200½	**Shell**‡	2530	+20	...	13.3
15	4¾	Shuka Minerals♦	12¼	-½	...	-0.8
2	⅞	Sound Energy♦	⅞	...	...	5.6
106½	9⅞	Star Energy♦	9⅞	...	...	-0.5
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.4
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.6
6½	1⅝	Thor Mining♦	1¾	...	...	...
5274⅛	3838½	Total Eng SE	5274⅛	+35⅛	...	12.0
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
50¾	22½	Tullow Oil	37⅝	+½	...	3.7
...	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.2
222	125	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
¾	⅛	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¼	1⅞	Westmount Engy♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.4
226	104½	Wood Grp (J)	162⅛	+⅝	...	-6.6
4½	¼	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.3
3½	1⅛	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	3	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	...	...	-4.4

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5350	3280	4imprint Grp‡	5040	+45	...	85.0
657½	460	Andrews Sykes♦	630	...	...	20.1
5874	3829	**Ashtead**‡	5112	-38	...	24.8
7¾	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
78½	38	AssetCo♦	38	...	...	0.2
55	40½	Avisen♦	48	-½	...	...
148	116½	Begbies Traynor♦	116½	-½	...	...
226	154½	Blancco Tech♦	226	...	...	81.0
3225	2664	**Bunzl**	2805	+5	...	21.2
42⅝	16⅝	Capita	16⅞	+¼	...	1.2
41½	36	CEPS♦	41	...	...	-9.3
160	105	Christie Group♦	107½	...	...	45.7
2235	1788½	**Compass**	2037	+13	...	49.5
252	97	CPPGroup♦	154½	-3	...	...
70	45	Croma Security♦	49½	...	...	7.1
5066	4030	**DCC**	4434	+4	...	14.6
104	30	De La Rue	61	+2½	...	8.0
3308	2226	Diploma	3092	-24	...	55.3
938	626	Discoverie	738	+3	...	60.4
33	23½	Driver Group♦	27½	...	...	13.1
252	145⅜	Essentra	145⅜	-½	...	16.3
3160	2568	**Experian**	2757	-2	...	35.3
12850	9094	Ferguson	12460	+110	...	18.4
274	225	FIH Group♦	242	...	...	...
10⅝	5	Grafenia♦	9	...	...	-6.6
485	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	474	-5	...	4.9
735	465	Impellam Grp♦	695	-5	...	37.9
7½	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4528	3619	**Intertek**	4169	-9	...	23.4
197⅝	115⅜	IWG	166⅞	-5⅛	...	-6.3
138	77	Johnson Srvce♦	132⅛	-1	...	82.6
197	106	Journeo♦	188½	...	...	42.2
90	56½	Kier Gp	88½	+⅜	...	8.6
1360	1080	Latham (J)♦	1115	...	...	6.1
990	695	Lok'n Store♦	722	-6	...	21.8
3150	2300	Lon Security♦	3000	...	...	16.5
339	220	LSL Prop Services	257	+4	...	7.1
119	86	Macfarlane	112	+2	...	12.9
255	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	165	...	...	5.0
2000	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	24½	...	...	...
292	185	Mears Group	276	...	...	24.0
103½	61½	Mitie Gp	103½	+¾	...	51.8
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5	+¼	...	3.7
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	50	-2½	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	...	...	...
62½	37	Northern Bear♦‡	55½	+1	...	5.6
286	218½	NWF Grp♦	240	+5	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	407⅛	-⅛	...	11.0
61½	45½	PCI-PAL♦	47	...	...	-9.7
11½	6¾	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
24	12½	PHSC♦	22½	...	...	40.9
1⅞	⅜	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
98	66	Record	74½	-4⅜	...	20.4
437½	283½	Redde Northgate‡	323½	-4½	...	8.1
760	555	Renew Hldgs♦	714	+9	...	17.6
738	450	Renewi	508	+8	...	10.7
655⅛	465	**Rentokil**	585¾	+1½	...	41.5
430	125	Restore♦	195	+1	...	23.2
610	412½	Ricardo	514	-8	...	45.8
600	355	Robert Walters‡	355	-15	...	8.1
20	11	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
239	207	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1118	696½	**RS Group**	742	-3½	...	18.8
53½	16	RTC Group♦	52½	+1	...	...
408⅜	226⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	244⅛	+9⅛	...	22.4
431	365	Science Group♦	404	+2	...	18.6
180⅛	136⅞	Serco‡	149⅞	+⅞	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	43	-½	...	4.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2768	-300	...	12.6
44	25⅜	Staffline Gp♦	28⅞	-¼	...	22.2
484½	332	SThree	359½	+3½	...	11.6
137½	102½	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
31	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	28	-2	...	...
84	35	Tribal♦	48	+3½	...	15.0
87	49	Vianet♦	78½	...	...	...
803	535	Vp	542½	...	...	13.3
2⅜	1⅛	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
131¼	95½	Shaftesbury Cap‡	117⅝	-½	...	34.6

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	41⅜	AO World	90½	-1½	...	...
590½	295½	**B&M European**	579	+8¾	...	13.4
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	21	-1	...	6.1
112½	40¾	Card Factory	104	...	...	...
2192	1473	CVS Group♦	1473	-33	...	41.2
165	104¾	DFS Furn	112⅜	+1⅜	...	5.9
1275	712½	Dunelm	1132	+2	...	15.2
899	621	**Frasers Group**	805½	+1½	...	35.8
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2426	+18	...	21.2
226⅛	126½	Halfords‡	193¾	-¼	...	6.4
759⅛	480⅞	Howden Joinery	736	+4½	...	13.8
941	675	Inchcape	779½	+4	...	26.3
4⅜	1⅝	IQ-AI	4⅜	...	...	...
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	140⅜	+⅞	...	16.9
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	231¾	+1¾	...	5.8
129⅛	61½	Lookers	129	...	...	8.3
231½	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	222⅝	+2⅛	...	...
11⅛	4⅞	Mothercare♦	5	...	...	-3.1
145	60	Naked Wines♦	70	+½	...	...
7278	4383	**Next**	7278	+120	...	13.8
976⅜	343⅜	**Ocado**	801½	-6½	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	18¼	...	...	5.7
397½	257¾	Pets at Home	350⅜	+2¾	...	14.3
188½	72⅞	Saga	129	-¾	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	272¾	+3⅝	...	22.9
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1401	+11	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	23	+½	...	...
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**	262½	+2¾	...	13.3
56⅜	38	Topps Tiles	49	-⅛	...	8.8

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	59	Access Intell♦	59	...	...	-8.1
131	9½	Aferian plc♦	17¼	-¼	...	3.1
196½	126	Alfa Financial	160½	...	...	25.1
13¾	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
419	268	Aptitude Software	280	...	...	31.4
265	162½	Bango♦	166	-1½	...	...
33	21	BATM Adv Coms	29¼	...	...	12.3
38	14¼	Berkeley Res	19½	...	...	-8.3
20	5¾	Blackbird♦	10½	...	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.9
2474	1810	Computacenter	2442	-10	...	15.1
86½	55½	Concurrent Tech♦	73	-½	...	17.3
11½	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1600	+20	...	72.9
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	14¾	...	...	...
261½	157½	D4t4 Solutions♦	190	...	...	22.5
21	13	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
⅜	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
870	518	FDM Group	550	-5	...	19.1
18	10¾	Filtronic♦	15½	-½	...	41.8
2165	1230	First Derivts♦	1568	...	...	...
644½	213¾	GB Group♦	221⅜	...	...	16.9
180½	135	GreshamTech	149	...	...	...
75½	24¼	Ilika♦	39½	...	...	...
132½	91	Ingenta♦	122½	...	...	71.6
77	38	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
189⅜	112	Iomart♦	180⅝	+⅝	...	19.8
59⅞	17	IQE♦	17	+½	...	...
129	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
1683	1041⅞	LG Electronics	1363⅝	+80⅛	...	3.6
⅛	⅛	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
56½	42	MTI Wireless♦	45	+½	...	14.9
55¾	17	Nanoco Gp	17½	...	...	...
116½	74	Netcall♦	83½	-½	...	...
49½	35	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	11¼	-¾	...	-5.9
119	80½	Oxford Metrics♦	98	...	...	42.6
8½	2½	Parity♦	2½	...	...	-3.7
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	38	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	498¾	-9⅛	...	5.2
379¾	297⅛	QinetiQ	334⅛	-2⅛	...	26.1
92	20½	RM	60½	+½	...	12.1
1027½	679¾	**Sage**	1027½	+5	...	39.4
7⅝	5	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
116½	37	Shearwater Grp♦	43	-½	...	26.6
54	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	42½	...	...	-4.4
1534	1071	Softcat	1478	-19	...	28.9
286⅛	143	Spirent Comms‡	143	-2¾	...	13.3
68	24¾	SRT Marine♦	48½	-⅝	...	...
571⅝	362⅜	Tele. Ericsson	409¼	-3	...	7.4
112½	72½	Touchstar♦	96¼	...	...	...
1000	720	Tracsis♦	825	+20	...	...
19½	12¼	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
165	81	Triad Grp	130	...	...	14.2
1380	49	Wandisco♦	57	-4	...	-1.0
735	390	Water Intel♦	390	-9	...	21.4
220	144½	Xaar	184	-3	...	...
5⅝	⅛	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
207½	59	Zoo Digital♦	60½	...	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
144	103⅝	**Airtel Africa**	118	+3⅞	...	10.5
160¼	112	**BT Group**‡	116⅛	+3	...	11.2
85¼	47⅞	Currys plc	49⅜	...	...	2.3
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1150	+2	...	20.8
128⅛	82	Helios Towers	91⅛	+1⅜	...	-8.2
2215½	1030	Just Eat T'away	1083	+30	...	-2.3
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.2
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.2
2500	1464	Telecom Plus	1570	+20	...	40.2
110½	70	**Vodafone**	77⅜	+2¼	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
336½	224	Braemar Ship#	233	+3	...	7.7
528	285	EasyJet	455⅝	+14½	...	-2.8
6⅞	2⅜	Esken Limited	3½	...	...	-0.1
156	93½	FirstGroup	156	-⅛	...	37.1
425	251	Fisher (James)	345	+4	...	-6.2
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	158¼	+2	...	-3.5
272⅜	183⅛	IDS	255¼	-2⅜	...	2.9
439¼	322	Irish Cont Uts	393	...	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1151	+53	...	-6.1
198⅞	75⅜	Mobico Group	84½	-3	...	-5.0
1035	820	Ocean Wilson	914	-16	...	4.6
...	...	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	17	Sutton Harbour♦	17½	...	...	...
372	192⅜	Wincanton	240	+4	...	6.5
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	1971½	+17	...	-4.4

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
163½	67¼	**Centrica**	163½	+1	...	16.5
256½	249	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
750	473⅜	Drax Group‡	536½	-3½	...	39.7
555	432	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
1162	858⅜	**National Grid**	999½	+2½	...	23.3
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8⅜	...	...	5.4
1000	603½	Pennon	603½	-7½	...	43.7
¾	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
2975	2213	**Severn Trent**	2423	-18	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**‡	1620	-4½	...	6.3
1102½	828⅛	**United Utilities**	955⅜	-13	...	87.6

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Obituaries

Marc Bohan

French fashion designer who led Christian Dior through the sexual revolution, dressed Bardot and feuded with Yves Saint Laurent

Marc Bohan never made important decisions on a Friday or on the 13th of the month — his lucky number was five — and while he loved designing with reds and greens, he never chose green for personal use.

For much of his career these superstitions paid off, not least when Yves Saint Laurent, the creative director of Christian Dior, was called up for military service in 1960, providing Bohan with the opportunity to lead the renowned fashion house through the sexual revolution, the feminist wave and the rise of 1980s narcissism.

His style was essentially for grown-ups, with clothes that were famous for their understated and comfortable designs. "I like something suitable for a real woman," he said. "Refined. Chic. Nothing aggressive. I saw in a magazine a skirt up to 'ere [indicating the briefest of minis]. Who cares for that in a couture house?" In 1963 he was quoted in *Vogue* as saying, "n'oubliez pas la femme" (don't forget the woman), a motto to which he stuck resolutely.

At his first Dior show in 1961 he introduced the world to his "slim look". The Duchess of Windsor, who later became a friend, was guest of honour and Elizabeth Taylor, for whom he became the go-to designer, bought 12 outfits. He collaborated with Princess Margaret, resulting in an array of military-inspired coat dresses and shift dresses with pussy bow detailing, while Jackie Kennedy wore his suits during her White House years. "My clients were mostly social and international women who enjoyed a very busy social life and appreciated high-quality couture clothes in which they felt confident and comfortable," he explained.

Bohan was never inclined to flashy displays of imagination, yet he was in tune with his customers. When a group of young women protested against his conservatively long hemlines in 1968, holding placards reading "Support the miniskirt", he introduced the Miss Dior line to give them what they wanted. Similarly, he launched Bébé Dior in 1967 and Christian Dior Monsieur in 1970, and designed the flight attendant uniforms for Concorde.

For nearly 30 years this fastidious Parisian worked from Dior's pale-grey temple to couture, dominating a corner of the Avenue Montaigne in Paris, with a top team at his bidding. He dressed like a banker in grey flannel suits, either of his own making or from H Huntsman and Sons in Savile Row, London, and lived in an adjacent art-filled apartment.

Among his other clients were Princess Grace of Monaco and the actress Sophia Loren, many of whose films used Dior clothing. He also designed wedding dresses for Silvia Sommerlath's marriage to Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in 1976 and two years later for Princess Caroline of Monaco to Philippe Junot, the first of her three husbands.

Bohan's name rarely appeared on the Dior label, nor on the invitation to the company's shows. He was almost painfully shy, talking softly, with agonising slowness and caution. "I do not enjoy the limelight," he said in a quiet voice. "Nor do I seek publicity for myself. And I am extremely jealous of my private life." However, clients found him an irresistible source of gossip, and he was quite capable of admonishing them. "Darling, you look dee-vine in that gown, but you'd look even better if you only changed your make-up," was a favourite line.



WILLI SCHNEIDER/REX

Bohan with Brigitte Bardot in 1975: below, he made a virtue of understated design

Like Cristóbal Balenciaga, his Spanish counterpart, he preferred to work in silence, detesting models who spoke to him during fittings. According to *The Battle of Versailles*, Robin Givhan's history of late 20th-century French fashion, "he was often tense, irritable and

He worked in silence, detesting models who spoke during fittings

prone to headaches in the days leading up to one of his couture shows. He could look at 300 models just to select one." His one concession to fun was driving around Paris in a white Porsche.

Dedicated to his craft and a stickler for tradition, he went on stage at the Paris Opera in 1985 to collect one of the first French fashion Oscars, choosing to appear dressed in his couturier's white coat while leading his Dior workforce. The audience roared in approval. "There is no point creating a collection if nobody is able to make it," he explained.

Eventually he made a decision on a Friday, or on the 13th of the month, or wore green clothing. Whichever, something changed and in 1989 he was abruptly fired by new management at Christian Dior. Loyal customers abandoned the label in protest, among them Ivana Trump, then married to Donald, who observed that while husbands may be dispensable, couturiers were not.

Marc Roger Maurice Louis Bohan was born in Versailles in 1926, the son of a businessman and a milliner. He was raised in a house littered with his mother's fashion magazines. "My father did not want her to work," he recalled, adding that the older man was also "against my choice of career".

He was educated at Lycée Lakanal in Sceaux and in 1945 walked into the studio of Robert Piguet, whose designs he admired in those magazines, and asked for work. "When you don't know anybody you have the choice of everybody," he later explained. He was taken on as a fashion illustrator, though was not Piguet's only future star. "[Hubert de Givenchy] and I were the new boys there," he said.

He then worked for Edward Molyneux, a British designer in Paris, "and began to meet the really elegant women of the world, women like Marlene Dietrich, Norma Shearer ... People like this know more about putting a look together than any designer. They know inside out the clothes for the life they lead."

Bohan was one of the few big name designers to marry a woman. He met Dominique Gaborit, who worked in her family's banking business, at a party and they were married in 1950. She died in a car accident near Paris in 1962. Bohan was travelling in another car and witnessed the crash. Their daughter, Marie-Anne, then nine, survived and





he brought her up as a single parent with the help of a nanny; she later worked for Christie's in London. His second marriage was to Huguette Rinjonneau, who died in 2018.

In 1954 Bohan joined the designer Jean Patou. "I learnt how to modify my ideas to suit the tradition of an individual house," he said. He left in 1957 to design under his own name but that venture quickly floundered and he wound up in New York, designing coats and discovering "the American girl, always searching for something new, always impersonal, always young ... I think designing for her gave my work its young aspect."

While there Christian Dior invited him to help on a new collection, but Dior died in October 1957. The company kept him on, based in London, to design its ready-to-wear collection until Saint Laurent's departure created a temporary vacancy at the top of Dior.

Within a couple of months Saint Laurent had been discharged from the military after suffering a nervous breakdown. He tried to return to Dior but found that Bohan's post had become permanent and there was no position available. A bitter lawsuit followed and

Yves Saint Laurent was convinced his ideas were being leaked to Bohan

thereafter there was no love lost between the designers, with Saint Laurent becoming convinced that his ideas were being leaked to Bohan. James Brady, the former White House press secretary, recalled throwing a party in Paris at which the pair spent the entire evening in opposite corners of the room.

After leaving Dior, Bohan wound up in London where Manny Silverman, the ebullient former head of Moss Bros, had stepped in to rescue the near-bankrupt fashion house of Norman Hartnell, the Queen's couturier, who had died in 1987. "I thought that here was an opportunity of doing something in a house which has kept a certain class and a certain prestige," Bohan explained of agreeing to join Silverman's venture. Alas, a combination of the Gulf war, the recession of the early 1990s and a declining interest in couture curtailed his opportunities at Hartnell and within three years he had resumed designing under his own name.

Away from high fashion he enjoyed aesthetic pursuits. He was attracted to the German, Dutch and Flemish early masters, read Marcel Proust and André Gide, and collected old curios and antique furniture. In 1961 he had visited the San Francisco opera house and thereafter remained fond of opera, ballet and classical music, especially works by Mahler, Wagner and Strauss.

Bohan kept an old farmhouse near Fontainebleau, 45 minutes' drive from Paris. There he would spend his weekends riding in the forest on his horse, whose name was Isveskata.

He also renovated an 18th-century former abbey in Burgundy.

His sense of elegance remained undiminished. Speaking to *Architectural Digest* in 1994, he declared: "For me, elegance is a yardstick. It is the art of knowing how much free rein one can allow one's imagination without overstepping the boundaries of classicism."

Marc Bohan, fashion designer, was born on August 22, 1926. He died on September 6, 2023, aged 97

Register

Major Iain Grahame

Naturalist and commanding officer to Idi Amin who saved a British citizen from execution by sending the dictator two peafowl

In 1975 Uganda's bombastic military dictator Idi Amin sentenced Denis Hills to death by firing squad when the British writer called him a "village tyrant".

In an effort to avert his execution, Harold Wilson's government dispatched two envoys to Uganda: Lieutenant General Sir Chandos Blair and retired Major Iain Grahame. Both had been Amin's superiors when he was serving in the British colonial army before Uganda gained independence.

They met Amin in a thatched hut in Arua, the city in which he was born. The entrance was so low that they had to crawl in, allowing the state media to report that the officers had "entered the general's house on their knees".

Amin raged at his visitors but he eventually released Hills. The official version was that Amin relented because Queen Elizabeth II wrote a letter pleading for Hill's life and James Callaghan, the foreign secretary, agreed to fly to Kampala to bring him home, thereby satisfying Amin's overblown sense of his own importance.

In later life Grahame offered another explanation. Amin knew that he bred rare birds and during their meeting he complained that the presidents of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo both owned white peacocks, "but I've only got ordinary blue peacocks". Grahame promised that he would personally deliver a pair of white peafowl to the pilot of the next Uganda Airlines flight from London to Entebbe if Amin released Hills.

Iain Grahame was born in London in 1932 and spent his early years in Cobham, Surrey. His father, Lewis, a former army officer discharged during the First World War for insisting on fighting with a bow and arrow, left his mother when his son was five and became an artist in Paris. His mother, Eira, was killed by a German bomb when Grahame was seven.

He and his younger sister Eila went to live with their aristocratic uncle, Denis Wigan, at his Suffolk estate, Loudham Hall. His father allegedly lost the custody battle when the judge was told that he had no real job or permanent address, and that Wigan had scored a





Grahame, centre, and fellow envoy Lieutenant General Sir Chandos Blair talk to Idi Amin, the Ugandan leader; left, with his wife, Bunny Campione, at Daws Hall

century for Eton. His uncle left him in the care of his gamekeeper during the school holidays, which is where Grahame developed a love of natural history — an interest encouraged by Alec Douglas-Home, the future prime minister, who was a friend of Wigan's and often stayed at Loudham. Together they would chase butterflies in the fields by day and catch moths at night.

From Ludgrove prep school in Wokingham Grahame went to Eton, where he played racquets for the school, then joined the 60th Rifles (King's Royal Rifle Corps) for his National Service. After a posting to Germany he volunteered for secondment to the King's African Rifles and was sent to Kenya, where the Mau Mau were rebelling against British rule.

He discovered several species of butterfly: one was hitherto unknown

He spent the night of his 21st birthday in a small fortified police post with 20 askari (indigenous soldiers), fighting off more than 200 Mau Mau soldiers. The following year he and his men survived an ambush while patrolling in a forest. He refused to be recommended for a decoration because, he said, his patrol was fully armed while "the enemy only had between them one elephant gun, a motley selection of simis and pangas, and a number of poisoned arrows".

Grahame learnt fluent Swahili and passable Lwo during his seven years with the King's African Rifles. He played polo, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and made a study of a genus of butterfly known as Charaxes.

He took his butterfly net, traps and bait (fermented bananas or leopard dung) wherever he went and employed a full-time African collector. They discovered five distinct species of Charaxes and one hitherto unknown species which was subsequently named *Charaxes grahamei*.

During his final years in east Africa Grahame also found himself commanding the young Idi Amin, whom he described in one of his several books, *Amin and Uganda*, as "a superb athlete, a first-class NCO and a fine leader of men, but someone whose innate tribalism and almost total illiteracy should have been a bar to his ever progressing beyond the rank of sergeant major".

Ugandan independence loomed in 1962 and the army was instructed to promote African officers. In some cases, including Amin's, this was "not because they were in any way fit for such promotion, but because there was simply no alternative".

Grahame left the army in 1963, by which time the Lord Lyon, the Scottish heraldic authority, had recognised him as Grahame of Claverhouse and Duntrune (head of his clan), after his father's death. He and his first wife, Susan d'Esterre Curteis, bought Daws Hall, a part-Tudor, part-Georgian farmhouse with 35 acres beside the River Stour on the Suffolk-Essex border. There he planted woodland, opened a wildfowl and pheasant farm and co-founded the World Pheasant Association. In 1970, during two hazardous expeditions on the foothills of Mount Everest and Mount Kanchenjunga in Nepal, he managed to catch specimens of the Himalayan blood pheasant, the only one of the 48 known species of pheasant never previously kept or bred in captivity.

The following year Amin declared himself president. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office sent Grahame back to Uganda three times to try to rein in his former subordinate, but their meetings always followed the same pattern. "Amin would dismiss his staff, stand smartly to attention, while I gave him a good bollocking, all the while addressing me as effendi ('Sir')," Grahame wrote. "He would then promise undying love for the Queen and Britain, and behave even more monstrously as soon as I was out of the country."

Grahame had two children with his first wife: Angus, now an entrepreneur; and Katrina, a garden photographer. That marriage ended in divorce, as did his second to Diana Colville. In 2000 he married Bunny Campione, an antiques expert who appears regularly on the BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow*. They first met when their cars crashed head-on in a Suffolk lane, writing off both vehicles. Grahame produced a bottle of brandy to calm her.

The wildfowl farm did not prove hugely profitable, so in 1979 Grahame embarked on a new career as an antiquarian bookseller. He specialised in books on natural history, sports and Africa, becoming a leading dealer in his field. He was also a keen amateur hypnotist and water diviner.

In 1988 he set up the Daws Hall Trust, which has since brought more than 120,000 schoolchildren from Suffolk, Essex and London to the nature reserve he had created on his land to teach them about natural history.

Grahame died after a fall in his kitchen. By then he had had eight new hips and one new knee after a life of strenuous activity. He was a bit like a "walking museum piece", his widow remarked.

Major Iain Grahame, naturalist, was born in London on July 1, 1932. He died on September 4, 2023, aged 91

Jan Jongbloed

Goalkeeper who played in two World Cup finals for Holland and whose ball skills helped start the 'total football' revolution

It was the most unexpected of international footballing call-ups. When the manager Rinus Michels announced the Dutch squad for the 1974 World Cup in West Germany, he included Jan Jongbloed among the goalkeepers. Jongbloed, 34 years old, had won one previous cap 12 years earlier, when he disastrously came on as a substitute for only six minutes and conceded a goal.

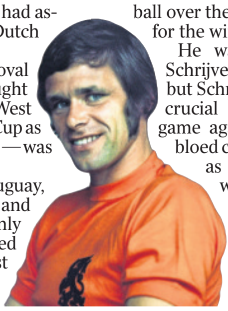
At 5ft 10in, he was also unusually short for a keeper and played for one of the less fashionable clubs, DWS Amsterdam. When Michels first summoned him to join the squad, Jongbloed assumed it was a joke.

It was not. Because Jongbloed's most distinctive goalkeeping assets were his feet rather than his hands, the shrewd Rinus saw him as an integral part of his masterplan that would transform world football. Jongbloed had been a left-winger until the age of 16 and was far more at ease controlling and passing the ball than most goalkeepers, whose ball skills were limited to hoofing it upfield.

The role of the "sweeper-keeper", rushing out of the penalty area to clear the ball and becoming involved in passing movements to help build attacks, is now commonplace. Yet in 1974 Michels arguably invented the role, as part of his "total football" style of play, and viewed Jongbloed as the ideal candidate.

His selection was criticised in the Dutch press but Jongbloed enjoyed the backing of the team's powerful star player Johan Cruyff (obituary, March 25, 2016), who told him he had "feet that are much better than many players I know". Cruyff added that "he may not be the strongest goalkeeper in the world, but he is very nice and fills the dressing room with joy". It helped that Holland's mercurial maestro was feuding with the goalkeeper most had assumed would be in the Dutch team, Jan van Beveren.

With Cruyff's seal of approval Jongbloed — who had brought his fishing kit with him to West Germany for the 1974 World Cup as he assumed he would not play — was in the team.



In matches against Uruguay, Sweden, Bulgaria, Argentina and Brazil, Jongbloed conceded only one goal as Holland qualified for the final in Munich against the hosts, West Germany. After making some fine saves he was beaten for the only the second time in the tournament by a penalty and then left flat-footed by the mesmerising turn and precise finish of Gerd Müller. West Germany won 2-1.

Jongbloed assumed his international career was over when he lost his place for the 1976 European Championships. Aged 38, he was astonished to be recalled for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina by Holland's new manager, Ernst Happel. He began the tournament with two clean sheets but was blamed for a surprise 3-2 defeat by Scotland, with Archie Gemmill famously chipping the ball over the onrushing Jongbloed for the winning goal.

He was replaced by Piet Schrijvers for the next games but Schrijvers was injured in a crucial second group-phase game against Italy and Jongbloed came on to replace him as Holland ran out 2-1 winners to qualify for the final.

In the hostile atmosphere of the World Cup final in Buenos Aires against Argentina, the Dutch held their own at 1-1 until extra time, when Jongbloed was left stranded as the Argentinians scored a chaotic second goal and a decisive third. It was his 24th and final cap.

Jongbloed resumed his club career with DWS Amsterdam, where he played for 18 seasons before moving to Roda and Go Ahead Eagles, where he became a cult figure for his charges upfield to join attacks when his team were losing.

He was also one of the few goalkeepers in the modern game to refuse to wear gloves, claiming: "I can't feel the ball with them on. I find it much easier to block it without the gloves."

Jongbloed turned down an offer to join Liverpool because he preferred to stay at a lower, less-pressured level. He also refused a move to Ajax because he would lose a day's fishing to extra training. Fishing and football were, he said, "the two great passions of my life". He supplemented his modest income by owning a tobacconist's shop.

Jongbloed was born into a large, resilient family in 1940 in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. His father was a tailor.

He was married and divorced twice and had two children: a son, Eric, and a daughter, Nicole. Eric also became a professional goalkeeper but died after being struck by lightning during a match in Amsterdam in 1984. His father, a committed socialist, spoke movingly of how grief regularly left him crying "when I see people on television being very happy with each other. I link that to the death of my son".

In 1985 Jongbloed suffered a heart attack during a training session that forced him to finally retire from professional football. He later worked as a coach and manager at clubs including Haarlem and Vitesse Arnhem.

His place in the Dutch footballing pantheon was assured, as part of a celebrated team that helped to revolutionise the game. In the summer of 1974, one Dutch commentator hailed an "Amsterdam tobacconist" who had become "the most revolutionary, nonconformist and crazy goalkeeper in the history of football".

Jan Jongbloed, goalkeeper, was born on November 25, 1940. He died after a long illness on August 30, 2023, aged 82

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

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PHOTOGRAPHER LIAM GILLAN



College friends find a love to last

ELEANOR EVE AND JAMES MARTIN WERE MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2022, AT APTON HALL, IN ROCHFORD, ESSEX. THEY FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11, 2023

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THE TIMES

Court Circular

Kensington Palace
12th September, 2023
The Princess of Wales, Patron, Forward Trust, this morning visited HM Prison High Down, Sutton, Surrey.

St James's Palace
12th September, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh, President, Sport and Recreation Alliance, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting at Guildhall, Gresham Street, London EC2.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the British Paralympic Association, this evening held the ParalympicsGB Supporter Reception at St James's Palace.

The Duchess of Edinburgh this morning held a Meeting with representatives from Education Cannot Wait.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon received the Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

The Duchess of Edinburgh, Patron, Defence Medical Welfare Service, received Mr Michael Griffiths (Chairman) and Mr Paul Gaffney (Chief Executive Officer).

St James's Palace
12th September, 2023
The Princess Royal, Patron, the Boston Stump Restoration and Development Appeal, this morning visited completed restoration work at St Botolph's Church, Church Close, Boston, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire (Mr Toby Dennis).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Magpas Air Ambulance Capital Campaign, this afternoon opened a new Air Base at Alconbury Weald, Barnwell Road, Huntingdon, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mrs Julie Spence).

The Princess Royal, Patron, Maritime UK, this evening attended the London International Shipping Week Tenth Anniversary Reception at Mansion House, London EC4.

Kensington Palace
12th September, 2023
The Duke of Gloucester, Royal Patron, the British Museum, this morning received Dr Hartwig Fischer upon relinquishing his appointment as Director.

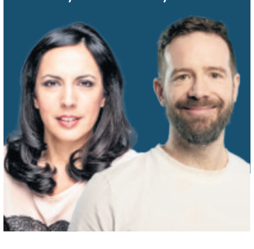
His Royal Highness, President, the Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew, this afternoon attended a Garden Party to mark the Nine Hundredth Anniversary of St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, this evening attended a Dinner, in support of the Girls' Voices Advisory Group, at the Deanery, 9 Amen Court, London EC4.

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Births, Marriages and Deaths

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THE GRASS withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
Isaiah 40.7-8 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Deaths

BROOKS George Rowland died on 24th August 2023, aged 88, in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Devoted husband to the late Barbara, beloved father of James, Caroline and Camilla and much-loved grandfather to his eight grandchildren and great-grandson. Funeral service on Wednesday 20th September, 11am, at St George's Church, Beckington, Frome. No flowers but any donations, if desired, for the RNLI and for further details www.mhfd.co.uk/campaigns/george-rowland-brooks.

CONNORS
Gillian Margaret (née Wakefield) on 31st August 2023, aged 80. Gill died in Hove and was the surviving widow of Brendan Connors and only daughter of the late Christopher Wakefield and Marjorie Wakefield (née Kraushaar). Remembered with much affection by family and friends, including Sandy Connors (step-granddaughter), Virginia Gingell (close friend), Michael and Christine Kraushaar and their family, Rosemary and Janet Du Plessis and their families, David Wren and his family, and Pam Kirby and her family.

Gillian was an energetic child and an excellent student who won a scholarship to Haberdashers' Girls School, before completing a degree in English and Italian at the University of Birmingham. As one of the "69ers", she worked for many years as a senior administrator at the Open University, where she met her beloved husband. They travelled all over the world, took an interest in international events, read extensively, attended classical music concerts and were avid followers of cricket, football and other sports.

Gillian was a core member of her extended family and sustained deep friendships forged at school and her time at the Open University. She unfailingly remembered everyone's birthdays, was a lively letter and email correspondent and a generous giver of gifts. Although declining health diminished her independence and sapped her energy, there were still moments of intense pleasure and connection with others.

A ceremony to celebrate Gill's life will be held at Woodvale Crematorium North Chapel, Brighton, at 2pm on Thursday 21st September, all are welcome.
If you would like to donate in honour of Gill, please donate online at: www.justgiving.com/page/gillconnorsmartlets
or send a cheque made payable to: The Martlets Hospice c/o Arka Original Funerals, 39-41 Surrey Street Brighton BN1 3PB, tel: 01273 766620.

CRUICKSHANK Lady Elizabeth Buchan (née Taylor) died on 5 September 2023, aged 79. Dear wife of Sir Don Cruickshank, beloved mother to Stewart and Karen, adored grandmother to Alex, Helen, Cameron, Niamh, Minnie and Cassie. Teacher, scholar, solicitor, golfer, writer and valued friend to so many. Powerful advocate for women in the law. Chair of the Association of Women Solicitors in England and Wales. Respected chronicler of the struggles of the first few women solicitors in the early 1900s. Her funeral will be at Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond, at 2pm on 26 September, to which all are welcome. No flowers, please, but any donations to the ARNI Trust, charity no 1116130.

CUNDELL Keith Stratton, died peacefully at home on 31st August 2023, aged 81. Very much-loved husband of Jacqui, father to Giles and Hugo, Grandpa to Maggy, Holly, Harry and Freya, brother to Martin. He will be greatly missed. Funeral at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, RG40 3DW, on Thursday 5th October at 1.30pm. Donations if wished to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice www.pth.org.uk.

LAWSON Clement Stephenson "Stephen" (Newcastle). Quietly after a long illness at home on 28th August 2023, aged 78 years. Loving husband, father and grandfather. A funeral service will be held at West Road Crematorium on Tuesday 19th September at 11.45am. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to the My Name'5 Doddie Foundation. A box will be available on the day.

LEWIS Derek William Richard passed away peacefully on 27th August 2023, aged 87. Much-loved husband of Hedwig, father of Tom, Stephanie and Ron and grandfather to six. Funeral service at St Leonard's, Wallingford, on 29th September at 11am. No flowers please but donations to the Alzheimer's Society. All inquiries to Howard Chadwick Funeral Service.

MALONE Zilia Pelham (née Thorman) on 3rd September 2023, aged 90, died peacefully in Yeovil Hospital after a long life. Mother of Molly, Patrick and Fergus, her funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Bruton, Somerset, on 6th October at 2pm.

RAND Sheila Ellen (née Ware) on 3rd September 2023, aged 96, died at home in the loving care of her family. Wife of Michael, mother to Selina and grandma to Mikey and Alicia. Sheila's elegance, creativity and sense of fun will be terribly missed. She will always be dearly loved. Inquiries to selinarand15@gmail.com.

ROWE Paul Harold on 1st September 2023 passed away peacefully surrounded by family members after a brave battle against cancer. Husband of Denise, father of Emma, Andrew and Jenny, stepfather to Lauren and Louise and grandfather of seven. He was a wonderful man and will be sorely missed by many. Funeral service will be held at St Nicolas' Church, Pevensey, on 3rd October 2023 at 11am. No flowers please but donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne. Inquiries to Serenity Funeral Directors, 43 South St, Eastbourne BN21 4UT, serenity.eastbourne@dignityfunerals.co.uk. (Relaxed clothing, black optional.)

SISMEY Jennifer (née Peacock) died peacefully on 28th August 2023, aged 77, surrounded by her family. Much-loved wife of Malcolm, mother of Helen, David and Rachel, grandmother of Annabel, Alice and Pippa. Thanksgiving service at Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers, on 20th September at 11.15am. Family flowers only, donations to Farleigh Hospice or Marie Curie via www.pauljking.com.

Funeral Arrangements

CORNES David Langford at East Devon Crematorium on 29th September 2023 at 1.45pm. Passed away peacefully at the RD&E Hospital on 6th September 2023, aged 79 years. Loving husband of Valerie. Wonderful father and grandfather. Will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him. Family flowers only, please. Donations if desired to Lymphoma Action, Budleigh Salterton & District Hospice Care or Exeter Leukemia Fund. 01395 442252 palmers.budleigh@letsco-operate.com.

Services

BATTLE OF BRITAIN DESCENDANTS AND RELATIVES.
Each year the Royal Air Force commemorates the Battle of Britain and those who flew and fought in the air and on the ground, at a service in Westminster Abbey. The RAF Ceremonial Office is seeking to improve its knowledge of this unique demographic and to offer places at the formal Battle of Britain Thanksgiving and Rededication Service this year, planned for Sunday 17th September 2023, and in subsequent years. We would very much like to hear from the widows, descendants and any other family members of those who participated in the battle. If you are a family member or know someone who is, please write to Mrs Michèle Small (Royal Air Force Ceremonial Office, Bentley Priory Building, Royal Air Force Northolt, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG), providing details of your relationship to your relative who served in the Royal Air Force between July and October 1940, your email address and a contact phone number. Additionally, for the purpose of allocating tickets please also send your full name, home address, date and place of birth, and passport or driving licence number. This information is also required for any additional guests who wish to attend the service with you — thank you.
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LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

Legal Notices

UNITED RENTAL GROUP AMERICA LIMITED
(Company Number: 09614292)
Principal Trading Address: Durrant House, 47 Holywell Street, Chesterfield, S41 7SJ
Malcolm Cohen and Matthew Chadwick of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company on 30 August 2023. Creditors of the Company are required, on or before the 16 October 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Note: Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The director of the Company has made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.
Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Tel: 020 7486 5888, Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk, Ref: 00417619.
Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator
8 September 2023

CR-2023-002818
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANIES COURT (Ch D)
IN THE MATTER OF PROVEN VCT PLC (COMPANY NUMBER 03911323)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice Chancery Division dated 15 August 2023 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of ProVen VCT plc (the "Company"), created upon the issue of ordinary shares, and the capital redemption reserve of the Company, resolved on and effected by a special resolution passed at an annual general meeting of the Company held on 12 July 2023 and the statement of capital approved by the Court were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23 August 2023.
Dated the 13 day of September 2023
Howard Kennedy LLP
No. 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG
Solicitors for the Company

CR-2023-002819
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANIES COURT (Ch D)
IN THE MATTER OF PROVEN GROWTH AND INCOME VCT PLC (COMPANY NUMBER 04125326)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice Chancery Division dated 15 August 2023 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of ProVen Growth and Income VCT plc (the "Company"), created upon the issue of ordinary shares, and the capital redemption reserve of the Company, resolved on and effected by a special resolution passed at an annual general meeting of the Company held on 12 July 2023 and the statement of capital approved by the Court were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23 August 2023.
Dated the 13 day of September 2023
Howard Kennedy LLP
No. 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG
Solicitors for the Company

Claim number: CR-2023-003716
Reduction of Capital
IN THE MATTER OF QUORUM DEVELOPMENT LTD (company number 04445312), with its registered office at Office F1, Explorer 2 Thomas Wright Way, Net Park, Sedgefield, County Durham, England, TS21 3FF (the Company)
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
Notice is hereby given that a Part 8 Claim Form was, on 8 September 2023, issued at the High Court of Justice, Business & Property Courts of England & Wales seeking an order to confirm the cancellation and repayment of 54,000 Ordinary Shares of £0.001 each, 1,000 A Ordinary Shares of £0.001 each and 1,000 B Ordinary Shares of £0.001 each in the capital of the Company (the Reduction), which was approved by a special resolution of the Company passed on 31 August 2023.
Notice is further given that the final hearing of the claim as set out in the Part 8 Claim Form is directed to be heard before an Insolvency and Companies Court Judge (ChD) at 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, Greater London, EC4A 1NL on 26 September 2023 at 10.30 am.
Any creditor or shareholder of the Company wishing to oppose the making of an order to confirm the Reduction should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the Part 8 Claim Form may be obtained from the Company's solicitors: Shakespeare Martineau LLP, No 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham, United Kingdom, B4 6AA (ref: 2502581).
Dated: 13th September 2023.



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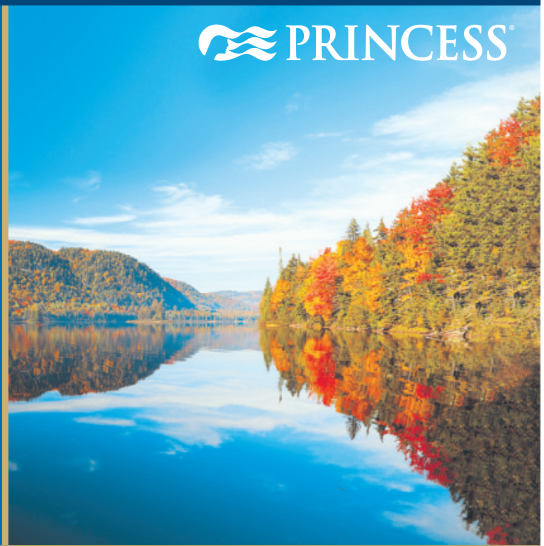
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Today Rain spreading into western Ireland and Scotland, otherwise dry with sunny spells. Max 21C (70F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	13	C	1.4	2.8
Aberporth	13	D	2.2	1.3
Anglesey	15	C	16.2	0.0
Aviemore	13	PC	0.0	2.8
Barnstaple	19	C	2.6	**
Bedford	21	C	0.4	**
Belfast	15	PC	1.2	0.2
Birmingham	17	C	7.2	**
Bournemouth	20	C	0.0	4.4
Bridlington	15	C	18.8	**
Bristol	18	C	4.2	3.9
Camborne	17	C	0.8	0.0
Cardiff	19	C	2.8	1.5
Edinburgh	15	PC	0.0	4.7
Eskdalemuir	15	S	0.0	0.4
Glasgow	16	S	0.0	3.5
Hereford	17	C	6.4	**
Herstmonceux	21	C	0.0	5.6
Ipswich	20	C	2.2	5.0
Isle of Man	16	C	2.0	0.3
Isle of Wight	20	C	1.0	**
Jersey	**	**	**	**
Keswick	15	C	1.2	**
Kinloss	14	S	0.6	4.0
Leeds	13	D	21.0	**
Lerwick	11	PC	0.8	4.1
Leuchars	16	S	0.0	4.8
Lincoln	15	R	22.6	5.6
Liverpool	17	C	16.0	**
London	22	C	0.0	4.2
Lyneham	19	PC	1.8	3.8
Manchester	16	R	22.2	1.8
Margate	21	D	0.4	5.6
Milford Haven	15	D	1.6	**
Newcastle	14	C	2.2	**
Nottingham	15	R	22.4	2.7
Orkney	12	PC	0.6	2.7
Oxford	21	C	4.4	**
Plymouth	19	C	0.0	**
Portland	19	C	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	16	C	3.4	**
Shoreham	21	C	0.8	4.1
Shrewsbury	15	R	11.4	0.8
Snowdonia	15	C	21.2	**
Southend	20	C	0.0	5.6
South Uist	14	R	0.0	**
Stornoway	13	C	0.0	4.6
Tiree	15	S	0.0	3.0
Whitehaven	13	C	2.2	0.0
Wick	13	PC	0.6	**
Yeovilton	18	C	4.0	1.4

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	28	PC	Madeira	25	PC
Amsterdam	23	PC	Madrid	24	PC
Athens	27	PC	Malaga	32	PC
Auckland	16	PC	Mallorca	29	PC
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	28	PC
Bangkok	29	PC	Melbourne	21	S
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	24	B
Barcelona	26	PC	Miami	33	B
Beijing	27	S	Milan	28	S
Beirut	34	PC	Mombasa	30	PC
Belgrade	31	S	Montreal	22	B
Berlin	29	S	Moscow	17	S
Bermuda	29	PC	Mumbai	30	**
Bordeaux	22	B	Munich	28	S
Brussels	24	PC	Nairobi	26	PC
Bucharest	27	S	Naples	27	S
Budapest	30	S	New Orleans	33	S
Buenos Aires	22	B	New York	26	B
Cairo	28	**	Nice	26	PC
Calcutta	33	**	Nicosia	31	S
Canberra	14	PC	Oslo	17	PC
Cape Town	15	PC	Paris	18	R
Chicago	18	R	Perth	22	PC
Copenhagen	21	B	Prague	28	S
Corfu	29	S	Reykjavik	11	B
Delhi	31	**	Riga	24	S
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	27	PC
Dublin	15	B	Riyadh	41	S
Faro	24	S	Rome	28	S
Florence	29	S	San Francisco	21	PC
Frankfurt	27	S	Santiago	15	PC
Geneva	29	S	São Paulo	27	PC
Gibraltar	27	PC	Seoul	27	PC
Helsinki	21	PC	Seychelles	29	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	31	B
Honolulu	31	PC	St Petersburg	24	S
Istanbul	27	PC	Stockholm	18	B
Jerusalem	34	**	Sydney	19	**
Johannesburg	12	B	Tel Aviv	34	**
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	29	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	30	PC
Lanzarote	25	PC	Vancouver	19	B
Las Palmas	28	PC	Venice	26	S
Lima	18	D	Vienna	29	S
Lisbon	24	PC	Warsaw	29	S
Los Angeles	27	PC	Washington	28	B
Luxor	36	S	Zurich	28	PC

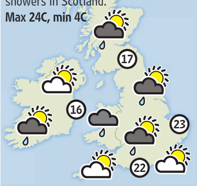
Five days ahead

Becoming warmer in the southeast but an increasing risk of rain or showers in many places

Tomorrow

Rain may be persistent across parts of Wales and nothern England, perhaps also into the Midlands. Dry and warm in the south, fresher with a few showers in Scotland.

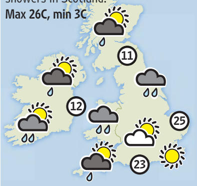
Max 24C, min 4C



Friday

Heavy and persistent rain in Wales, northern England and parts of southern Scotland. Sunny and very warm in the south and east, a few showers in Scotland.

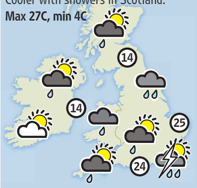
Max 26C, min 3C



Saturday

Further rain across parts of Wales and northern England. Warm and humid in the south and east but with an increasing risk of thundery downpours. Cooler with showers in Scotland.

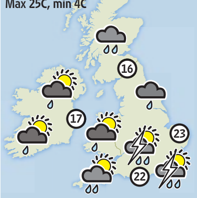
Max 27C, min 4C



Sunday

Potentially quite an unsettled day with a risk of heavy downpours and thunderstorms in places.

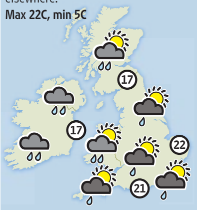
Max 25C, min 4C



Monday

Mainly dry in the southeast but rain or showers becoming widespread elsewhere.

Max 22C, min 5C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

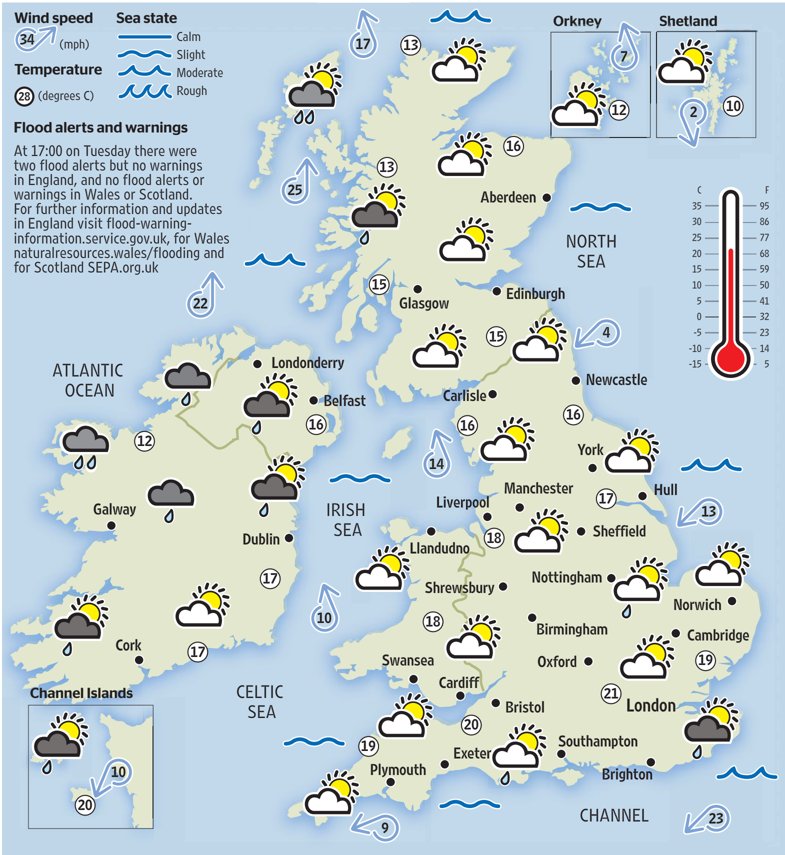
Wind speed 34 (mph)

Temperature 28 (degrees C)

Sea state Calm, Slight, Moderate, Rough

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Tuesday there were two flood alerts but no warnings in England, and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

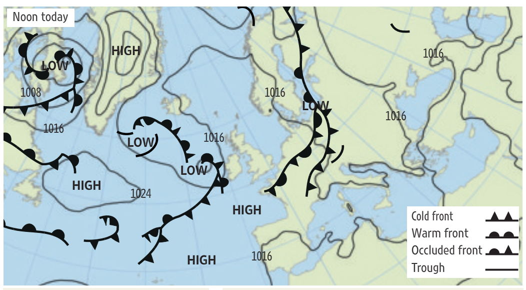


General situation: Many areas will be dry with sunny spells and increasing cloud. Rain spreading into the far west.
NW Scotland, Argyll: Sunny spells and a few showers at first, but cloud will thicken with rain arriving from the west during the afternoon. Light increasing to fresh southeasterly winds. Maximum 15C (19F), minimum 5C (41F).
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Fog patches clearing to leave many areas dry during the morning with just a few isolated showers, mainly in east Ulster. Cloud will increase from the west with rain spreading eastwards into the afternoon. Remaining largely dry in the southeast. Light increasing moderate to strong south or southeasterly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 9C (48F).
Cen S Eng, London, SE Eng, E Anglia, Channel Is, SW Eng: Mainly dry with sunny spells, but becoming cloudy at times with the chance of a few isolated light showers. Light to moderate east or northeasterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 8C (46F).
Wales, Midlands, E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, Lake District, SW Scotland, IoM, Glasgow, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, NE Eng, Borders, N Isles, Cen Highland, NE Scotland, Moray Firth: Largely fine and dry with lengthy sunny spells at first, cloud will bubble-up through the day. Light to moderate winds, mainly from the east or northeast. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 3C (37F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	01:17	3.9	13:48	3.9
Avonmouth	07:09	11.7	19:26	12.2
Belfast	11:28	3.1	23:32	3.4
Cardiff	07:02	11.0	19:17	11.5
Devonport	05:41	4.8	17:52	5.2
Dover	11:23	6.3	23:47	6.2
Dublin	11:56	3.6	23:57	3.9
Falmouth	05:15	4.6	17:28	4.9
Greenock	--:--	--	12:56	3.1
Harwich	11:48	3.8	--:--	--
Holyhead	10:39	5.0	22:45	5.4
Hull	06:09	6.8	18:43	6.7
Leith	02:40	5.1	15:04	5.1
Liverpool	11:23	8.4	23:32	8.8
London Bridge	01:46	6.5	14:06	6.4
Lowestoft	09:24	2.4	22:16	2.4
Milford Haven	06:21	6.2	18:35	6.5
Morecambe	11:34	8.4	23:43	8.8
Newhaven	11:20	6.2	23:32	6.2
Newquay	05:13	6.2	17:27	6.5
Oban	06:01	3.5	18:05	3.7
Penzance	04:46	4.9	17:00	5.2
Portsmouth	11:40	4.4	23:43	4.3
Shoreham	11:33	5.8	23:46	5.7
Southampton	10:35	4.1	22:45	4.1
Swansea	06:22	8.3	18:37	8.8
Tees	03:39	5.1	16:06	5.1
Weymouth	06:51	1.7	18:58	1.9



Synoptic situation

A ridge of high pressure will cover most parts of the British Isles today, leading to settled conditions with sunny spells and increasing amounts of fair-weather cloud. An area of low pressure over the Atlantic, and associated fronts, will push cloud and outbreaks of rain into western portions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland during the afternoon.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: East Malling, Kent, 24.0C
Coldest: Cairngorm, 1.1C
Wettest: Sheffield, 33.4mm
Sunniest: Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, 8.0hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.31
Sun sets: 19.20
Moon rises: 04.21
Moon sets: 19.14
New moon: September 15

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	20:04-06:06
Belfast	20:16-06:24
Birmingham	19:58-06:10
Cardiff	20:03-06:15
Exeter	20:04-06:17
Glasgow	20:11-06:16
Liverpool	20:04-06:13
London	19:51-06:03
Manchester	20:01-06:10
Newcastle	19:59-06:06
Norwich	19:46-05:57
Penzance	20:11-06:26
Sheffield	19:57-06:07

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



Before Hurricane Idalia struck Florida on August 30, a United States air force crew flew from their base in Tampa and were astonished to see blue and purple streaks of glowing light dancing across the windows of the cockpit of their aircraft, resembling something like miniature lightning.

This was St Elmo's fire, created in the electric field of the storm and generating electrically charged, coloured gas. The phenomenon is named after the patron saint of sailors and in the days of sailing ships the glowing lights were often seen at the top of ships' masts in thunderstorms. During his world voyage on HMS Beagle, Charles Darwin gave an account in the Rio de la Plata estuary, South America, in 1832. "Everything was in flames, the sky with lightning, the water with luminous particles, and even the very masts were pointed with a blue flame."

The captain of the Beagle, Robert FitzRoy, witnessed another such incident. "Just before the rain began, St Elmo's fire was seen at each yardarm and at the masthead. Those who have not seen this light, always a favourite with sailors because they say it only appears when the worst part of the storm is over, may excuse my saying that it resembles the light of a piece of phosphorus — not being so bright, or so small, as that of a glow-worm, nor yet so large as the flame of a small candle. I was curious enough to go out to a yardarm and put my hand on a luminous spot; but, of course, could feel nothing, and when I moved my hand the spot reappeared."

A particularly curious incident of St Elmo's fire was on the horns of four cows, described by an eyewitness on the BBC weather message board. "It was at night and we had endured a big thunderstorm. I went out into a pasture to check on a pregnant pig I thought was out there when I came upon the cattle standing there with St Elmo's fire. It was solid and kept changing from silver to blue and back. They were oblivious to it."

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk



Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word

Find yourself in a literary haven on board Cunard's Literature Festival at Sea. This event, curated by the team of Cheltenham Festivals, sees authors, poets, journalists, critics, and historians unite on this voyage.

Enjoy this seven-day programme of events which celebrate the written word. Guests include bestselling authors Lynda La Plante, Kate Mosse and Anthony Beevor; journalists Julia Wheeler, Daniel Finkelstein; literary agent Luigi Bonomi; and former Home Secretary and author, Alan Johnson.

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Sport

Lowry: I deserve my Ryder Cup spot

Golf
Rick Broadbent

Shane Lowry bristled at the idea he had been fortunate to gain a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup as he returned from Europe's reconnaissance mission to the Marco Simone Golf & Country Club in Rome.

The 2019 Open champion had been out of form before last week's Irish Open, but said he had not felt the need to silence any social media dissenters after tying for third place.

"I know there was a little bit about that last week and it didn't sit very well with me, to be honest," Lowry, 36, said as he built up to his defence of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. "My results haven't been amazing this year, but I feel if you purely go down to statistics and to the 12 best players in Europe, I'm one of them. I feel like I deserve my place on the team."

The omission of Adrian Meronk was the toughest call for Luke Donald, given that the Pole won the Italian Open on the same course in May, but Lowry's place for the clash in a fortnight's time had always looked secure.

His first top-ten finish since February was timely but, according to the world No 32, not vital. "I didn't feel I had to go out and prove anything to anyone," he said. "If I shut a few people up, so be it, but I wasn't trying to do that."

In terms of what he brings to the team, he rattled off his assets: "I think I'm a good player for a start. I'm not going to be afraid of anyone that comes to stand on the first tee in two weeks' time. I think I'll be good for the rookies. I think I'll be good for team morale and in the team room. I'll be passionate. I'll show my emotions. I'll enjoy myself."

The absence of LIV Golf men such as Sergio García, Ian Poulter and Lee Westwood means this year's clash represents a changing of the guard.

"It's exciting," Lowry said. "I feel like this is maybe the next generation for European golf. I think European golf is better than what people have been saying over the past couple of years."



Europe's Ryder Cup team, including Lowry, back row third from left, gathered at the Marco Simone Golf & Country Club in Rome on Monday. Donald's men will aim to prevent the USA claiming victory on European soil for the first time in 30 years

Middlesex hurt by Vilas

LV= Insurance County Championship round-up
Paul Edwards, Neville Scott

Dane Vilas made his tenth first-class century for Lancashire as his side ensured that Middlesex will face a tricky fight to avoid a defeat that will harm their chances of escaping relegation.

Keaton Jennings' batsmen built a substantial 136-run lead by the close at Old Trafford, with Vilas making 124; it is his final year with the county that he has represented with distinction for seven seasons. After rain wiped out the morning session, he and Luke Wells put on 128 before Wells was caught behind but Vilas and George Bell added a further 106 before Vilas was out leg-before.

At Canterbury, **Nottinghamshire** are in danger of getting sucked into the survival fight. **Kent**, who are themselves part of that, made Nottinghamshire follow on, 181 behind, but Joe Clarke and Lyndon James added 99 to leave Nottinghamshire trailing by four runs.

In Division Two, at Hove, **Sussex** declared on 344 for nine, leaving **Leicestershire** a target of 499 in 160 overs. Yet Colin Ackermann (103) and Umar Amin (61) will resume on 221 for three with the hope of reaching their target.

Results and scoreboards

Football

International matches

Germany (1) **2** **France** (0) **1**
Müller 4, Sané 87 — Griezmann 89 (pen)

Scotland (0) **1** **England** (2) **3**
Maguire 67 (og) — Foden 32, Bellingham 35, Kane 81
51,000
(at Hampden Park)

Other result Saudi Arabia 0 South Korea 1 (at St James' Park, Newcastle).

European Championship qualifying

Group A

Norway (2) **2** **Georgia** (0) **1**
Haaland 25, Odegaard 33 — Zivzivadze 90+1

Spain (2) **6** **Cyprus** (0) **0**
Gavi 18, Merino 33, Joselu 70, F Torres 73, 83, Baena 77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Scotland	5	5	0	0	12	1	11	15
Spain	4	3	0	1	16	3	13	9
Norway	5	2	1	2	7	8	-1	7
Georgia	5	1	1	3	5	13	-8	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	2	17	-15	0

Group C

Italy (2) **2** **Ukraine** (1) **1**
Frattesi 12, 30 — Yarmolenko 41

Malta (0) **0** **N Macedonia** (2) **2**
Elmas 5, Manev 41

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
England	5	4	1	0	16	2	14	13
Italy	4	2	1	1	6	4	2	7
Ukraine	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
N Macedonia	5	2	1	2	7	12	-5	7
Malta	5	0	0	5	1	11	-10	0

Group F

Belgium (2) **5** **Estonia** (0) **0**
Vertonghen 4, Trossard 18, Lukaku 56, 58, De Ketelaere 88

Sweden (0) **1** **Austria** (0) **3**
Holm 90 — Gregoritsch 53, Arnautovic 56, 69 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Belgium	5	4	1	0	13	1	12	13
Austria	5	4	1	0	12	4	8	13
Sweden	5	2	0	3	11	8	3	6
Azerbaijan	4	0	1	3	2	11	-9	1
Estonia	5	0	1	4	2	16	-14	1

Group I

Israel (0) **1** **Belarus** (0) **0**
Kanichowsky 90+3 — 25,000

Romania (0) **2** **Kosovo** (0) **0**
Stanciu 83, Mihaila 90+3
Sent off: V Muriqi (Kosovo) 42

Switzerland (0) **3** **Andorra** (0) **0**
Itten 49, Xhaka 84, Shaqiri 90+3 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Switzerland	6	4	2	0	17	5	12	14
Romania	6	3	3	0	9	4	5	12
Israel	6	3	2	1	7	7	0	11
Belarus	6	1	1	4	4	11	-7	4
Kosovo	6	0	4	2	5	8	-3	4
Andorra	6	0	2	4	3	10	-7	2

European Under-21 Championship qualifying: Group six Ukraine 1 Northern Ireland 0. **Group nine** Lithuania 2 Wales 3.

Under-17 international England 4 Spain 1.

Papa John's EFL Trophy Notts Co 1 Wolves U-21 2; Peterborough 2 Cambridge Utd 0.

Cricket

LV= County Championship
Division One

Kent v Nottinghamshire

Canterbury (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need four runs to avoid an innings defeat to Kent

Kent First Innings 446 (Z Crawley 158, J A Leaning 64, D J Bell-Drummond 60)

Nottinghamshire First Innings (overnight 219-8)
B A Hutton c Finch b Gilchrist 31
D Paterson c Leaning b Nijjar 16
A M Fernando not out 14
Extras (lb 9, nb 6) 15
Total (98.2 overs) 265
Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-29, 3-160, 4-169, 5-173, 6-174, 7-199, 8-206, 9-229.
Bowling Hogan 13-3-31-2; Gilchrist 19.2-4-65-1; Chahal 29-10-63-3; Evison 5-0-30-0; Nijjar 32-11-67-4.

Second Innings (following on)
B T Slater c Hogan b Evison 39
H Hameed b Hogan 7
*S J Mullaney c sub b Evison 13
J M Clarke not out 61
M Montgomery b Hogan 6
T J Moores c Crawley b Hogan 0
L W James not out 38
Extras (b 3, lb 8, nb 2) 13
Total (5 wkts, 74 overs) 177
Fall of wickets 1-19, 2-63, 3-64, 4-78, 5-78.
Bowling Hogan 13-8-23-3; Gilchrist 7-0-31-0; Nijjar 24-5-47-0; Chahal 13-0-28-0; Evison 13-3-24-2; Leaning 4-0-13-0.
Umpires M Burns and P R Pollard.

Lancashire v Middlesex

Emirates Old Trafford (third day of four): Lancashire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 136 runs ahead of Middlesex

Middlesex First Innings 194 (S D Robson 86)

Lancashire First Innings (overnight 132-3)
L W P Wells c Simpson b Yadav 97
D J Vilas lbw b Bamber 124
G J Bell not out 56
G P Balderson not out 0
Extras (lb 5, nb 12) 17
Total (5 wkts, 88.1 overs) 330
T W Hartley, T E Bailey, W S A Williams and L Wood to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-80, 2-93, 3-96, 4-224, 5-330.
Bowling Bamber 20-6-45-1; Higgins 16.1-2-62-0; Roland-Jones 6-0-33-0; Yadav 30-4-113-2; De Caires 16-2-72-2.
Umpires D J Millns and N A Mallender.

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

Edgbaston (third day of four): No play, rain; Warwickshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 108 runs behind Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire First Innings 250 (K K Nair 78, E N Gay 77; O J Hannon-Dalby 7 for 46)

Warwickshire First Innings
D R Mousley not out 20
E G Barnard not out 4
Extras (lb 2, nb 10) 12
Total (4 wkts, 55 overs) 142
†M G K Burgess, D R Briggs, C N Miles, C Rushworth and O J Hannon-Dalby to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-62, 3-117, 4-124.
Bowling Sanderson 16-5-26-0; White 15-5-37-3; Taylor 15-3-53-0; Procter 9-2-24-1.
Umpires N Pratt and R J Bailey.

Division Two

Glamorgan v Yorkshire

Sophia Gardens (third day of four): Glamorgan, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 107 runs to avoid an innings defeat to Yorkshire

Yorkshire First Innings 500 (S M Khan 192, F J Bean 93, G C H Hill 71)

Glamorgan First Innings (overnight 150-6)
*K S Carlson c Wharton b Revis 64
D A Douthwaite lbw b Coad 37
A W Gorvin b Revis 47
J A R Harris b Coad 0
J P McIlroy not out 30
Extras (b 9, lb 5, nb 4) 18
Total (89.2 overs) 273
B I Kellaway to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-19, 3-66, 4-82, 5-96, 6-100, 7-173, 8-217, 9-217.
Bowling Coad 10-3-17-3; Thompson 11-0-42-1; Cliff 8-1-41-0; Bess 33-9-72-1; Revis 16.2-3-50-5; Hill 9-1-33-0; Lyth 2-1-4-0.

Second Innings (following on)
Z Ul-Hassan c Hill b Coad 0
E J Byrom not out 52
C A Ingram c Lyth b Bess 16
S A Northeast not out 45
Extras (lb 1, nb 6) 7
Total (2 wkts, 44 overs) 120
Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-30.
Bowling Coad 7-2-22-1; Thompson 4-2-8-0; Bess 19-8-26-1; Cliff 5-0-26-0; Revis 4-1-24-0; Lyth 5-1-13-0.
Umpires M Newell and P J Hartley.

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

Bristol (third day of four): Derbyshire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 21 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire First Innings 377 (O J Price 132, G L van Buuren 78; A K Dal 6 for 69)

Derbyshire First Innings (overnight 261-6)
*J L du Plooy not out 103
A K Dal b Khan 21
A T Thomson c Hammond b Goodman 34
M R J Watt st Bracey b Middleton 19
P R Brown not out 0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 3, nb 18) 26
Total (9 wkts, 110 overs) 398
Fall of wickets 1-132, 2-169, 3-177, 4-203, 5-252, 6-255, 7-292, 8-357, 9-398.
Bowling Shaw 19-2-62-0; Goodman 16-2-80-2; Khan 38-4-121-4; Charlesworth 11-2-50-1; Middleton 18-1-55-1; Price 8-1-25-0.
Umpires T Lungley and J Shantry.

Sussex v Leicestershire

Hove (third day of four): Leicestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 278 runs to beat Sussex

Sussex First Innings 262 (F J Hudson-Prentice 65; M E T Salisbury 5 for 73)

Second Innings (overnight 234-5)
J M Coles lbw b Scriven 63
F J Hudson-Prentice c Ackermann b Currie 44
J J Carson lbw b Scriven 21
A Karvelas run out 23
H T Crocombe not out 11
Extras (lb 6, w 1, nb 2) 9
Total (9 wkts dec, 102 overs) 344
Fall of wickets 1-49, 2-109, 3-156, 4-170, 5-210, 6-268, 7-297, 8-321, 9-344.
Bowling Wright 21-0-85-1; Salisbury 6-2-22-0; Currie 18-1-61-1; Scriven 20-5-55-4; Ackermann 4-0-15-0; Ahmed 27-3-91-2; Amin 6-1-9-0.

Leicestershire First Innings 108 (A Karvelas 4 for 14)

Second Innings
R K Patel c Pujara b Karvelas 40
S G Budinger lbw b Unadkat 7
*L J Hill c Clark b Karvelas 1
C N Ackermann not out 103
U Amin not out 61
Extras (b 4, lb 1, nb 4) 9
Total (3 wkts, 64 overs) 221
Fall of wickets 1-15, 2-16, 3-108.
Bowling Unadkat 12-2-29-1; Karvelas 10-4-21-2; Hudson-Prentice 8-4-38-0; Haines 2-0-7-0; Crocombe 10-2-42-0; Carson 14-5-43-0; Coles 8-0-36-0.
Umpires P K Baldwin and B J Debenham.

Third one-day international
South Africa v Australia

Potchefstroom (Australia won toss): South Africa beat Australia by 111 runs

South Africa (balls)
†Q de Kock c Warner b Head 82 (77)
*T Bavuma c Marsh b Sangha 57 (62)
R R Hendricks run out 39 (45)
A K Markram not out 102 (74)
H Klaasen lbw b Head 0 (2)
D A Miller c Marsh b Stoinis 8 (17)
M Jansen c Abbott b Ellis 32 (16)
S S B Magala not out 6 (7)
Extras (lb 3, w 9) 12
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs) 338
G W Coetzee, K A Maharaj and T Shamsi did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-146, 2-150, 3-226, 4-228, 5-244, 6-307.
Bowling Hazlewood 9-0-74-0; Stoinis 10-0-58-1; Abbott 3-0-31-0; Ellis 10-0-69-1; Sangha 8-0-64-1; Head 10-0-39-2.

Australia (balls)
D A Warner run out 78 (56)
T M Head c Coetzee b Magala 38 (24)
*M R Marsh c Miller b Shamsi 29 (26)
M Labuschagne st De Kock b Shamsi 15 (16)
†A T Carey b Coetzee 12 (23)
M P Stoinis st De Kock b Maharaj 10 (12)
T H David c sub b Coetzee 8 (18)
S A Abbott b Maharaj 2 (3)
N T Ellis c Hendricks b Coetzee 16 (20)
T S Sangha b Coetzee 0 (3)
J R Hazlewood not out 12 (7)
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 1) 7
Total (34.3 overs) 227
Fall of wickets 1-79, 2-140, 3-157, 4-165, 5-178, 6-194, 7-198, 8-200, 9-200.
Bowling Markram 4-0-33-0; Jansen 3-0-30-0; Magala 4-0-46-1; Coetzee 6.3-0-50-4; Shamsi 7-0-29-2; Maharaj 10-2-37-2.
Umpires B P Jele (South Africa) and R A Kettleborough (England).
● Australia lead five-match series 2-1

Asia Cup
Sri Lanka v India

Colombo (India won toss): India (2pts) beat Sri Lanka by 41 runs

India (balls)
*R G Sharma b Wellalage 53 (48)
S Gill b Wellalage 19 (25)
V Kohli c Shanaka b Wellalage 3 (12)
I P K P Kishan c Wellalage b Asalanka 33 (61)
†K L Rahul c and b Wellalage 39 (44)
H H Pandya c Mendis b Wellalage 5 (18)
R A Jadeja c Mendis b Asalanka 4 (19)
A R Patel c Samarawickrama b Theekshana 26 (36)
J J Bumrah b Asalanka 5 (12)
K Yadav c De Silva b Asalanka 0 (1)
M Siraj not out 5 (19)
Extras (lb 1, w 20) 21
Total (49.1 overs) 213
Fall of wickets 1-80, 2-90, 3-91, 4-154, 5-170, 6-172, 7-178, 8-186, 9-186.
Bowling Rajitha 4-0-30-0; Theekshana 9.1-0-41-1; Shanaka 3-0-24-0; Pathiranage 4-0-31-0; Wellalage 10-1-40-5; De Silva 10-0-28-0; Asalanka 9-1-18-4.

Sri Lanka (balls)
P N Silva c Rahul b Bumrah 6 (7)
F D M Karunaratne c Gill b Siraj 2 (18)
†B K G Mendis c sub b Bumrah 15 (16)
W S R Samarawickrama st Rahul b Yadav 17 (31)
K I C Asalanka c Rahul b Yadav 22 (35)
D M de Silva c Gill b Jadeja 41 (66)
*M D Shanaka c Sharma b Jadeja 9 (13)
D N Wellalage not out 42 (46)
M M Theekshana c sub b Pandya 2 (14)
C A K Rajitha b Yadav 1 (2)
M A V P H Pathiranage b Yadav 0 (2)
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 8, nb 1) 15
Total (41.3 overs) 172
Fall of wickets 1-7, 2-25, 3-25, 4-68, 5-73, 6-99, 7-162, 8-171, 9-172.
Bowling Bumrah 7-1-30-2; Siraj 5-2-17-1; Pandya 5-0-14-1; Yadav 9.3-0-43-4; Jadeja 10-0-33-2; Patel 5-0-29-0.
Umpires Masudur Rahman (Bangladesh) and R K Illingworth (England).

Second women's one-day international
England v Sri Lanka

Northampton (England won toss): Abandoned, no result

Sri Lanka (balls)
*A M C Athapaththu lbw b Dean 34 (34)
R M V Gunaratne c Jones b Cross 8 (7)
H D S Madavi c Jones b Yes 6 (14)
G W H Perera not out 31 (58)
H I H Karunaratne c Glenn b Davidson-Richards 8 (22)
W K Dilhari c and b Dean 0 (6)
†M A A Sanjeewani b Davidson-Richards 0 (4)
O U Ranasinghe lbw b Glenn 12 (24)
K D U Prabodhani c Jones b Filer 0 (15)
W G A Kulasuriya run out 0 (1)
Extras (lb 2, w 5) 7
Total (9 wkts, 30.5) 106
I Ranaweera did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-26, 2-41, 3-53, 4-76, 5-78, 6-79, 7-95, 8-102, 9-106.
Bowling Cross 5-0-35-1; Filer 8-0-25-2; Dean 7-3-12-2; Davidson-Richards 5-0-16-2; Glenn 5.5-1-16-1.
England C E Dean, T T Beaumont, *H C Knight, M E Bouchier, N R Sciver-Brunt, A Capsey, †A E Jones, S Glenn, K L Cross, L L Filer, A N Davidson-Richards.
Umpires A Harris and J Naeem.
● England lead three-match series 1-0

Women's T20 World Cup qualifier
Almeria Scotland 204-4 (20 overs: A Lister 68 not out, K E Bryce 53); France 49 (14.2 overs: P A Chatterji 3 for 7, D Carter 3 for 14). ***Scotland (2pts) won by 155 runs***.

Cycling

Vuelta a España
Leading positions: 16th stage (Liencres Playa to Bejes, 120.5km): 1, J Vingegaard (Den, Jumbo-Visma) 2hr 38min 23sec; 2, F Fisher-Black (NZ, UAE Team Emirates) at 43sec behind; 3, W Poels (Neth, Bahrain Victorious) 49. **Overall** 1, S Kuss (US, Jumbo-Visma) 57:18:10; 2, Vingegaard at 29sec; 3, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 1min 33sec. **Leading British** 18, H Carthy (EF Education-EasyPost) 40:32; 31, G Thomas (INEOS Grenadiers) 1:18:50.

Snooker

Shanghai Masters
Second round (England unless stated): J Trump bt J Lisowski 6-5; J Higgins (Scot) bt K Wilson 6-3; R O'Sullivan bt A Carter 6-3; M Selby bt H Vafaei (Iran) 6-5.

Tennis

Davis Cup finals, group B
AO Arena, Manchester: France beat Switzerland 3-0 (France players first: A Mannarino bt D S Stricker 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; U Humbert bt S Wawrinka 6-4, 6-4; N Mahut and E Roger-Vasselin bt M-A Hüsler and Wawrinka 6-2, 6-2). **Group A** (Bologna): Chile bt Sweden 3-0. **Group C** (Valencia): Serbia bt South Korea 3-0. **Group D** (Split): Netherlands bt Finland 2-1.

WTA Kinoshita Group Japan Open
Osaka: First round P Udvardy (Hun) bt T Maria (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5); H Dart (GB) bt L Fruhvirtova (Cz) 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; M Hontama (Japan) bt Jang Su-jeong (S Kor) 7-5, 0-6, 6-2; R Marino (Can) bt N Hibino (Japan) 6-3, 6-4; A Hartono (Neth) bt M Doi (Japan) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Zhu Lin (China) bt Wang Xiyu (China) 6-4, 6-4; M Uchijima (Japan) bt A Raina (India) 6-4, 6-2; A Kalinskaya bt J Niemeier (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; H Sakatsume (Japan) bt A Eala (Phi) 6-0, 6-3; E Mandlik (US) bt D Parry (Fr) 7-5, 6-2; J Ponchet (Fr) bt V Golubic (Switz) 6-4, 6-2.

WTA Cymbiotika San Diego Open
First round K Volynets (US) bt C Ngounoue (US) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; C Osorio (Col) bt M Frech (Pol) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; A Sasnovich (Bela) bt B Bencic (Switz) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; A Kalinina (Ukr) bt K Pliskova (Cz) 7-6 (7-4), 0-6, 6-3; E Navarro (US) bt J Paolini (It) 7-5, 6-0; A Potapova (Russ) bt A Parks (US) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; D Collins (US) bt L Chirico (US) 7-5, 6-0; M Kostyuk (Ukr) bt M Linette (Pol) 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

Fixtures

Cricket

Third one-day international: Kia Oval England v New Zealand (12.30).

LV= County Championship: Final day of four (10.30; 80 overs minimum): **Division One: Canterbury** Kent v Nottinghamshire. **Emirates Old Trafford** Lancashire v Middlesex. **Edgbaston** Warwickshire v Northamptonshire. **Division Two: Sophia Gardens** Glamorgan v Yorkshire. **Bristol** Gloucestershire v Derbyshire. **Hove** Sussex v Leicestershire.

Tennis

Davis Cup finals, group B: AO Arena, Manchester Great Britain v Australia.

Southwell

Rob Wright

5.45 Batal Dandy
6.15 King Of Scotia
6.45 Kingmania
7.15 Amazonian Dream
7.45 Blazeon Five
8.15 Angle Land
8.45 Onesmoothoperator (nap)

Going: standard — **Racing League meeting**
Draw: no advantage — **Sky Sports Racing**

5.45 Nursery ITV4
(2-Y-O: £14,174: 7f) (12 runners)

1 (9) 3110 **BIGGER THAN GIGA** 18 (D) K P De Foy 9-11 **L Catton (5)**
2 (11) 641 **CRIMSON SPIRIT** 16 (D) D & C Kubler 9-10 **K Shoemark**
3 (10) 20536 **BITS AND BOBS** 4 J Osborne 9-7 **S Osborne**
4 (5) 24624 **DUBAI HILLS** 18 (B) Miss A Murphy 9-6 **D Muscutt**
5 (6) 52300 **PARKER'S PIECE** 6 M Bell 9-5 **R Clutterbuck**
6 (2) 46352 **COMMANDER CROUCH** 6 R Hannon 9-4 **S M Levey**
7 (1) 64004 **FASTER BEE** 15 R Hughes 9-3 **B Curtis**
8 (8) 22341 **UP THE JAZZ** 13 (D) R Fahey 8-13 **Oisin Orr**
9 (3) 52261 **BUTTERCROSS FLYER** 13 (D) Craig Lidster 8-12 **J Peate**
10 (12) 643 **MADAME CHRISTINE** 24 Mrs A Duffield 8-10 **Josephine Gordon**
11 (7) 00000 **BLOW ME AWAY** 13 (T) S C Williams 8-6 **L Morris**
12 (4) 056 **BATAL DANDY** 16 R Fahey 8-4 **C Hardie**

4-1 Crimson Spirit, 9-2 Up The Jazz, 5-1 Buttercross Flyer, 7-1 Commander Crouch, 8-1 Faster Bee, Dubai Hills, 12-1 Parker's Piece, Bigger Than Giga.

Rob Wright's choice: Batal Dandy should appreciate this return to further **Dangers** Crimson Spirit, Buttercross Flyer

6.15 Handicap (£16,750: 7f) (13) ITV4

1 (10) 50401 **APHELIOS** 7 (P,D) M Appleby 4-10-3(5ex) **F Larson (3)**
2 (2) 52132 **G'DAAY** 16 (V,D) Joseph Parr 5-9-9 **S Cherchi**
3 (11) 53031 **TAHITIAN PRINCE** 11 (P,D) R Hannon 6-9-7 **S M Levey**
4 (12) 1-240 **KING OF SCOTIA** 109 (D) J Osborne 3-9-7 **S Osborne**
5 (3) 04040 **YANTARNI** 34 (P) I Williams 4-9-6 **R Clutterbuck**
6 (6) 52353 **GRANARY QUEEN** 4 (P,D) E J-Houghton 5-9-2 **K Shoemark**
7 (5) 54220 **HALF NUTZ** 13 (D) A McGuinness (Ire) 6-9-1 **D E Sheehy (3)**
8 (4) 36054 **STREAK LIGHTNING** 13 (D) R Carr 6-9-0 **Josephine Gordon**
9 (13) 31424 **YAASER** 13 (D) J Goldie 5-9-0 **P Mulrennan**
10 (7) 60-22 **SHAWAAMEKH** 39 (T,D) J F Levins (Ire) 9-8-13 **D Muscutt**
11 (8) 050-0 **RUSSCO** 15 (D) Mrs A Duffield 5-8-13 **D Allan**
12 (9) 14000 **INDIAN FALCON** 34 R Fahey 3-8-9 **C Murtagh**
13 (1) 13451 **IMPERIAL DREAM** 9 (D) Sir M Prescott 3-8-9 **L Morris**

7-2 Imperial Dream, 6-1 Aphelios, 7-1 Yaaser, Tahitian Prince, 8-1 G'daay, Half Nutz, 10-1 Shawaamekh, 12-1 Streak Lightning, Granary Queen.

Wright choice: King Of Scotia has run well on both tries on the all-weather **Dangers** Granary Queen, Streak Lightning

6.45 Handicap (£16,750: 1m) (13) ITV4

1 (12) 01000 **HARSWELL DUKE** 6 (D) R Fell & S Murray 5-9-12 **J Peate**
2 (5) 00013 **BALTIMORE BOY** 4 (V,D) M Bell 4-9-12 **R Clutterbuck**
3 (11) 50002 **TOSEN WISH** 13 (P,BF) A McGuinness (Ire) 4-9-12 **D Sheehy**
4 (8) 65000 **FOOLS RUSH IN** 11 (D) J Goldie 5-9-9 **P Mulrennan**
5 (13) -1460 **KINGMANIA** 32 (H,CD) J Ferguson 5-9-8 **D Probert**
6 (7) 15514 **CABINET OF CLOWNS** 15 (B,D) E J-Houghton 4-9-7 **K Shoemark**
7 (10) 20036 **CRY HAVOC** 6 R Guest 6-9-7 **L Morris**
8 (4) 14236 **HARTSWOOD** 13 (D) R Fahey 6-9-6 **Oisin Orr**
9 (2) 00021 **BILLY MILL** 13 (D) B Millman 5-9-6 **S Osborne**
10 (9) 23152 **HAT TOSS** 27 (BF) D Loughnane 3-9-5 **D Muscutt**
11 (3) 21502 **STRONGBOWE** 18 (P,D) T Easterby 7-9-4 **D Allan**
12 (6) 00645 **DIONYSIAN** 13 (BF,D) S C Williams 3-9-2 **L Catton (5)**
13 (1) 01060 **STAR ZINC** 13 (CD) R Menzies 4-8-12 **F Larson (3)**

3-1 Dionysian, 6-1 Hat Toss, Tosen Wish, 7-1 Baltimore Boy, Billy Mill, 12-1 Cabinet Of Clowns, Kingmania, Hartswood.

Wright choice: Kingmania drops in class after struggling in a listed race at Haydock **Dangers** Hat Toss, Hartswood

7.15 Handicap (£16,750: 6f) (14) ITV4

1 (10) 00004 **HIERARCHY** 18 (P,T,D) J Osborne 4-10-0 **S Osborne**
2 (2) 04605 **GULLIVER** 12 (P,CD) D O'Meara 9-10-0 **B Curtis**
3 (4) 55540 **AMERICAN STAR** 25 (B,D) R Carr 4-9-13 **Josephine Gordon**
4 (13) 32001 **TOLSTOY** 10 (D) S C Williams 4-9-11(5ex) **L Catton (5)**
5 (5) 3-600 **DARE TO HOPE** 11 R Fahey 3-9-10 **Oisin Orr**
6 (12) 40320 **ANTIPHON** 13 (D) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-10 **S M Levey**
7 (9) 31552 **MAMILLIUS** 10 (D) G Baker 10-9-9 **D Probert**
8 (7) 25545 **TYGER BAY** 13 (B,T,D) C Allen 6-9-8 **L Morris**
9 (8) 04221 **NORDIC PASSAGE** 13 (D) J F Levins (Ire) 8-9-8 **D Muscutt**
10 (14) 65432 **AMAZONIAN DREAM** 8 (D) B Millman 4-9-7 **T Whelan**
11 (11) 135 **BILLYJOH** 29 (D) M Appleby 3-9-7 **F Larson (3)**
12 (3) 00601 **JORDAN ELECTRICS** 12 (D) J Goldie 7-9-6 **P Mulrennan**
13 (6) 42214 **FIERCE** 25 (P,BF) G L Moore 3-9-5 **K Shoemark**
14 (1) 52200 **KING OF TONGA** 11 (B,D) D Carroll 7-9-3 **D Allan**

9-2 Nordic Passage, 5-1 Tolstoy, 6-1 Amazonian Dream, 8-1 Gulliver, Fierce, 10-1 Hierarchy, 12-1 Dare To Hope, Jordan Electrics.

Wright choice: Amazonian Dream was beaten just a neck at Goodwood **Dangers** Dare To Hope, Nordic Passage

7.45 Handicap ITV4
(£25,770: 2m 102yd) (11)

1 (11) 00063 **ALRIGHT SUNSHINE** 18 M Murphy & M Keady 8-10-0 **K Shoemark**
2 (6) 31541 **DIAMOND BAY** 6 (D) T Ward 5-10-0(5ex) **S M Levey**
3 (3) 30421 **ZAIN NIGHTS** 19 (P,D) H & R Charlton 4-9-12 **S Osborne**
4 (4) 25161 **BLAZEON FIVE** 47 (C,D) R Teal 5-9-9 **T Whelan**
5 (9) 20011 **SEA STONE** 18 (T,D) I Mohammed 4-9-9 **L Dettori**
6 (8) 65405 **DARK JEDI** 11 (P) T Easterby 7-9-8 **D Allan**
7 (2) 53510 **LAND OF WINTER** 40 (B,C,D) R Guest 7-9-6 **L Morris**
8 (7) 00500 **SIR CHAUVELIN** 19 J Goldie 11-9-3 **P Mulrennan**
9 (1) 02204 **MOSTLY SUNNY** 21 (P,D) H Main 4-9-2 **Gina Mangan (3)**
10 (5) 13000 **NATCHEZ TRACE** 13 (C) D Carroll 6-8-11 **B Robinson**
11 (10) 21312 **CINNODIN** 38 (P,BF,C,D) R Hughes 3-8-2 **D E Sheehy (3)**

4-1 Sea Stone, 5-1 Diamond Bay, 11-2 Zain Nights, 6-1 Cinnodin, Blazeon Five, 8-1 Mostly Sunny, 12-1 Alright Sunshine, 14-1 Land Of Winter, Natchez Trace.

Wright choice: Blazeon Five can shrug off a 3lb rise for his latest success at Ascot **Dangers** Cinnodin, Sir Chauvelin

8.15 Handicap (£25,770: 5f) (14) ITV4

1 (7) 30200 **MICHAELA'S BOY** 21 (D) M Appleby 3-9-12 **F Larson (3)**
2 (3) 63500 **STRONG POWER** 6 (P,D) B Ellison 6-9-9 **B Robinson**
3 (9) 60342 **MAY SONIC** 25 (CD) C Hills 7-9-8 **K Shoemark**
4 (13) 26522 **LIL GUFF** 24 (BF,D) D & C Kubler 4-9-4 **S M Levey**
5 (6) 42110 **MANILA SCOUSE** 21 (T,D) T Easterby 4-9-3 **D Allan**
6 (12) -0305 **THUNDER MOOR** 27 (P,D) G Boughey 3-9-1 **B Curtis**
7 (2) -3300 **SAFARI DREAM** 11 (D) B Millman 3-8-13 **T Whelan**
8 (5) 11-60 **SPORTING HERO** 116 (D) G Boughey 3-8-12 **D Muscutt**
9 (8) -1061 **NEVER DARK** 19 (D) I Jardine 6-8-11 **D Probert**
10 (14) 06125 **FAUSTUS** 18 (V,D) R Cowell 5-8-11 **L Morris**
11 (4) 66002 **ANGLE LAND** 18 (V,CD) R Cowell 4-8-11 **L Dettori**
12 (10) 31560 **POCKLEY** 13 (B,D) Miss L Perratt 5-8-7 **A Breslin (3)**
13 (1) 40606 **NIGHT ON EARTH** 11 (D) I Williams 5-8-6 **S Hitchcott**
14 (11) 06110 **SHOW ME SHOW ME** 12 (V,D) R Fahey 6-8-4 **C Hardie**

9-2 Lil Guff, 6-1 Angle Land, 7-1 May Sonic, 8-1 Never Dark, 10-1 Faustus, Michaela's Boy, Manila Scouse, Thunder Moor.

Wright choice: Angle Land can build on a good second to Lihou at Goodwood **Dangers** Lil Guff, Safari Dream

8.45 Handicap (£51,540: 1m 4f) (12) ITV4

1 (12) 55003 **ENEMY** 4 (T,D) I Williams 6-9-13 **R Clutterbuck**
2 (6) 213-6 **PERCY SHELLEY** 169 D O'Meara 4-9-7 **D Muscutt**
3 (8) 52610 **SCAMPI** 18 (D) A Balding 5-9-4 **D Probert**
4 (11) -0016 **STAR HARBOUR** 27 (V) A McGuinness (Ire) 5-9-3 **B Curtis**
5 (7) -0302 **SOTO SIZZLER** 17 (P,D) G L Moore 8-9-2 **S M Levey**
6 (2) U1600 **SARATOGA GOLD** 18 (P,D) C Hills 5-9-0 **K Shoemark**
7 (3) 41123 **GRAIGNES** 6 (H) G Baker 7-8-13 **P Mulrennan**
8 (10) 34002 **ONESMOOTHOPERATOR** 13 (C) B Ellison 5-8-11 **B Robinson**
9 (1) 20331 **REGAL EMPIRE** 32 (C,D) J Tate 3-8-9 **Josephine Gordon**
10 (5) 43-62 **VALSAD** 25 (D) H & R Charlton 4-8-8 **S Osborne**
11 (4) 12140 **THE THUNDERER** 6 (P,D) S C Williams 5-8-7 **S Cherchi**
12 (9) 02020 **PROTECTED GUEST** 47 (CD) G Margarson 8-8-3 **L Morris**

9-2 Regal Empire, 5-1 Scampi, Onesmoothoperator, 7-1 Valsad, Star Harbour, 10-1 Graignes, 12-1 Soto Sizzler, Enemy, Saratoga Gold, Percy Shelley.

Wright choice: Onesmoothoperator ran a cracker when second at Newcastle **Dangers** Valsad, Star Harbour

Bath

Rob Wright

1.40 Caramay
2.15 Edergole's Gift
2.50 Weston Court
3.25 Sparked
4.00 Buccabay
4.35 Club Manager
5.10 Havana Goldrush

Going: good to firm, firm in places
Draw: 5f-1m, low best — **Sky Sports Racing**

1.40 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 2f) (8)

1 (8) 44021 **BARNEY'S ANGEL** 9 (D) I Williams 4-10-7(5ex) **H Davies**
2 (3) 00232 **GALACTIC GLOW** 9 (P,T,CD) J Tickle 6-9-13 **T Fisher**
3 (5) -5603 **MISS LIGHTFANDANGO** 18 C Hills 3-9-9 **B Loughnane**
4 (6) 51154 **STORM ASSET** 31 (D) A Carroll 4-9-9 **Millie Wonnacott**
5 (1) 00-03 **OPTICALITY** 159 (V) Mitchell Hunt 5-9-8 **A Keeley**
6 (4) 55003 **DARK GOLD** 23 (B) Sir M Prescott 3-9-5 **A Farragher**
7 (7) 00053 **CARAMAY** 25 W Muir & C Grassick 3-8-12 **Georgia Dobie**
8 (2) 61455 **JIMMY MARK** 55 (CD) W Kittow 3-8-10 **C Hutchinson**

9-4 Barney's Angel, 4-1 Galactic Glow, 11-2 Miss Lightfandango, 6-1 Dark Gold, 8-1 Opticality, Storm Asset, 12-1 Caramay, 16-1 Jimmy Mark.

2.15 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 5f) (6)

1 (4) 05 **LUDBERG** 10 C Wallis 9-7 **G Wood**
2 (1) 24343 **VICE CAPTAIN** 13 G Scott 9-7 **B Loughnane**
3 (6) 33362 **ACER** 7 C Cox 9-2 **J Fahy**
4 (2) 40 **ALWAYS LOVE YOU** 110 Darryll Holland 9-2 **J Watson**
5 (5) **CITY WATERS** Mitchell Hunt 9-2 **H Davies**
6 (3) 5052 **EDERGOLE'S GIFT** 9 C Allen 9-2 **K O'Neill**

2-1 Acer, 5-2 Vice Captain, 4-1 Edergole's Gift, Always Love You, 16-1 Ludberg, 20-1 City Waters.

2.50 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,245: 1m) (10)

1 (10) 00041 **IRRELEVANT** 5 (B) R Hughes 10-0(6ex) **F Marsh**
2 (9) 56505 **HARTS POCKETROCKET** 12 A Carroll 9-9 **Mollie Phillips**
3 (3) 006 **WESTON COURT** 16 R Harris 9-9 **L Keniry**
4 (8) 00126 **MONKS MEAD** 11 (BF) M Usher 9-8 **C Bishop**
5 (1) 60004 **PROFICIENT** 10 (T) S Kirk 9-6 **C Planas (3)**
6 (7) 50232 **GO YOUR OWN WAY** 9 (B) J S Moore 9-4 **T Fisher (3)**
7 (2) 00553 **DAINTY LADY** 11 T Dascombe 9-0 **A Rawlinson**
8 (5) 4000 **BUDDING POET** 24 Owen Burrows 8-13 **B Loughnane**
9 (4) 000 **ELEGANT ELLOISE** 76 (P) Alice Haynes 8-13 **K O'Neill**
10 (6) 000 **CABLE STRIKE** 16 (P) J S Moore 8-13 **Olivia Tubb (7)**

9-4 Irrelevant, 4-1 Go Your Own Way, 5-1 Monks Mead, 6-1 Dainty Lady, 8-1 Budding Poet, 12-1 Weston Court, 14-1 Harts Pocketrocket, 16-1 Proficient.

3.25 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (8)

1 (1) 03423 **UNDER CURFEW** 4 (CD) A Carroll 7-9-9 **J Watson**
2 (6) 20610 **FAIR AND SQUARE** 7 (B,C) R Harris 4-9-9 **L Keniry**
3 (5) -4445 **GRANNY B** 30 (H) M Mullineaux 3-9-6 **Laura Coughlan (5)**
4 (2) 52003 **EXORBITANT** 14 C Cox 3-9-5 **J Fahy**
5 (4) 54606 **NORDIC GLORY** 14 (D) M Attwater 4-9-3 **P Bradley (3)**
6 (3) 40205 **SPARKED** 9 (P,D) J Boyle 4-9-2 **A Voikhansky (5)**
7 (7) 40000 **RED ALERT** 11 (P,C) A Carroll 9-9-2 **W Cox**
8 (8) 30361 **CORONATION COTTAGE** 13 (CD) M Saunders 9-9-2 **C Bennett**

11-4 Exorbitant, 4-1 Under Curfew, 5-1 Coronation Cottage, 11-2 Sparked, 7-1 Nordic Glory, 8-1 Granny B, 10-1 Fair And Square, 20-1 Red Alert.

4.00 Handicap (£3,873: 6f) (6)

1 (2) 40545 **BUCCABAY** 11 (D) E J-Houghton 3-10-0 **C Bishop**
2 (1) 65426 **HEROISM** 37 (T,D) C Cox 3-10-0 **J Fahy**
3 (5) 60000 **ABOLISH** 60 (D) A Carroll 7-9-13 **J Watson**
4 (6) 21300 **LADY DREAMER** 8 (T,V,D) T Ward 3-9-11 **A Farragher (3)**
5 (4) 32510 **STRAITS OF MOYLE** 18 (D) R Cowell 4-9-11 **J Fanning**
6 (3) 35156 **MY DELILAH** 25 (CD) A Wintle 3-9-4 **B Loughnane**

11-4 Heroism, 3-1 Buccabay, 7-2 Straits Of Moyle, 9-2 Lady Dreamer, 7-1 My Delilah, 12-1 Abolish.

4.35 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 6f) (7)

1 (2) 33242 **CHERRY COLA** 21 (D) Miss S West 7-10-2 **Rose Dawes (5)**
2 (7) 22626 **SMOKEY MALONE** 25 (B,D) J Feilden 5-9-13 **D Hogan**
3 (3) 100/3 **THAHAB IFRAJ** J20 Alexandra Dunn 10-9-11 **T Fisher (3)**
4 (6) 400-6 **BRECCIA** 12 (P,T) R Stephens 5-9-11 **F Marsh**
5 (5) -6600 **INFINITI** 27 (T,D) K Frost 10-9-7 **A Brookes (5)**
6 (4) 0-315 **CLUB MANAGER** 11 (BF) A Balding 3-9-0 **W Carver (3)**
7 (1) 60606 **DUCHESS** 13 (T) J Berry 4-8-11 **F McManoman**

9-4 Club Manager, 11-4 Cherry Cola, 7-2 Smokey Malone, 7-1 Thahab Ifraj, 8-1 Breccia, 14-1 Infiniti, 20-1 Duchess.

5.10 Handicap (£3,873: 1m) (11)

1 (4) 5-066 **FLATLEY** 18 A Wintle 6-10-0 **F Marsh**
2 (11) 63012 **POETIC FORCE** 10 (CD) A Carroll 9-10-0 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
3 (7) 50221 **CIOTOG** 21 (CD) M Loughnane 5-10-0 **B Loughnane**
4 (8) 00000 **DANCINGINTHEWOODS** 7 (B,T) Miss A Murphy 6-9-12 **A Farragher (3)**
5 (1) 46242 **GONE** 8 (CD) C Johnston 3-9-10 **J Fanning**
6 (10) 30004 **ARDBRACCAN** 21 (P,T) M Appleby 4-9-9 **A Rawlinson**
7 (6) 01125 **MY AMBITION** 21 (CD) D Coakley 4-9-8 **C Bishop**
8 (9) 35450 **RIVAL** 25 (P,D) J Flint 5-9-8 **J Leavy (7)**
9 (3) 2060 **ART OF ROMANCE** 15 B Meehan 3-9-7 **H Davies**
10 (5) 50346 **HAVANA GOLDRUSH** 6 (B,CD) J S Moore 4-9-5 **T Fisher**
11 (2) 56043 **WIZARDING** 7 (BF) H Main 4-9-4 **K O'Neill**

3-1 Ciotog, 9-2 Gone, 6-1 Ardbraccan, 7-1 Wizarding, 8-1 My Ambition, Poetic Force, 12-1 Rival, 16-1 Art Of Romance, Havana Goldrush, Dancinginthewoods, 20-1 Flatley.

Carlisle

Rob Wright

2.05 Adaay In Devon
2.40 Knicks
3.15 Manxman
3.50 Hostelry
4.25 Hills Of Gold
5.00 William Dewhirst

Going: good to soft, soft in places
Draw: no advantage — **Racing TV**

2.05 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (11)

1 (4) 52211 **ADAAY IN DEVON** 18 (D) B Millman 10-0 **O Searle (7)**
2 (10) **ALIBI WARNING** R Fahey 9-2 **D Tudhope**
3 (11) 4 **HIGH VIOLET** 26 D Loughnane 9-2 **S James**
4 (2) **SCARLET LADY** P McBride 9-2 **B McHugh**
5 (8) 05 **WHAT TIMES TEA** 21 I Jardine 9-2 **A Mullen**
6 (7) 4 **WREN OFFICER** 42 (BF) G Boughey 9-2 **J Hart**
7 (6) 42 **EMINENT JEWEL** 27 R Fahey 9-0 **B Garritty**
8 (3) 03 **EMU WAR** 30 (BF) K R Burke 9-0 **C Lee**
9 (5) 2 **NASNEEN** 14 P & O Cole 9-0 **C Beasley**
10 (1) **STAR MIND** K Ryan 9-0 **S Gray**
11 (9) 64 **YIENGAA** 16 N Tinkler 9-0 **R Scott**

100-30 High Violet, 7-2 Wren Officer, 9-2 Adaay In Devon, 11-2 Nasneen, 10-1 Emu War, Eminent Jewel, 12-1 Alibi Warning, Star Mind.

2.40 Nursery (2-Y-O: £5,234: 6f) (10)

1 (2) 55143 **DEFYING ORDERS** 12 (P,D) A Watson 9-9 **D Tudhope**
2 (1) 31450 **BILOXI BOY** 32 K R Burke 9-9 **P-L Jamin**
3 (3) 63524 **WOODLEIGH** 19 D Carroll 9-8 **Z Wheatley (5)**
4 (5) 23130 **PETRA CELERA** 27 (P,D) K R Burke 9-7 **C Lee**
5 (6) 41045 **NEVERSTOPDREAMING** 21 (D) James Horton 9-7 **P J McDonald**
6 (8) 12043 **INDICATION CALL** 8 K R Burke 9-6 **Brandon Wilkie (7)**
7 (9) 2104 **VITARLI** 15 Craig Lidster 9-4 **S James**
8 (7) 51454 **PROFESSOR TICKLE** 12 (P,D) D Loughnane 9-3 **J Hart**
9 (10) 3620 **KNICKS** 15 (P) K R Burke 9-3 **R Scott**
10 (4) 640 **ISHE WORTH AGAMBLE** 51 T Easterby 8-12 **S B Kirrane**

9-2 Defying Orders, 5-1 Woodleigh, 11-2 Indication Call, 6-1 Neverstopdreaming, 13-2 Vitarli, 15-2 Professor Tickle, 10-1 others.

3.15 Handicap (£5,234: 2m 1f) (5)

1 (5) 32031 **SPANTIK** 15 (P) R Fell & S Murray 6-10-0 **D Tudhope**
2 (3) 24422 **HELLENISTA** 17 (P,BF) T Easterby 5-9-11 **S B Kirrane**
3 (1) 01311 **MANXMAN** 34 (V) S & E Crisford 3-9-9 **R Havlin**
4 (4) 23-00 **YASMIN FROM YORK** 15 Simon Whitaker 7-9-3 **T Eaves**
5 (2) 40224 **AIGHEAR** 21 J Goldie 5-8-13 **Mark Winn (3)**

10-11 Manxman, 7-2 Spantik, 5-1 Hellenista, 7-1 Aighear, 14-1 Yasmin From York.

3.50 Handicap (£3,926: 1m) (10)

1 (1) 11444 **TEMPER TRAP** 12 (CD) T Easterby 6-10-2 **A Fielding (7)**
2 (3) 10264 **DO I DREAM** 19 (D) B Haslam 4-9-13 **G Lee**
3 (4) 34111 **JKR COBBLER** 37 I Jardine 4-9-11 **A Mullen**
4 (5) 25035 **STRANGERONTHESHORE** 17 (CD) N Tinkler 5-9-11 **R Scott**
5 (7) 00-50 **SEZAAM** 125 M Dods 4-9-11 **C Beasley**
6 (9) 34221 **HOSTELRY** 20 (P,C,D) R Carr 6-9-9 **D Tudhope**
7 (6) 25006 **CARLTON** 12 T Waggott 3-9-6 **T Eaves**
8 (2) 06234 **DARBUCKS** 23 (C,D) C Kellett 4-9-3 **J Hart**
9 (8) 40460 **MAKALU** 14 (C,D) R Carr 4-9-2 **JP Sullivan**
10 (10) -4043 **RATAFIA** 39 (P) M Herrington 5-8-9 **D Fentiman**

3-1 Jkr Cobbler, 100-30 Hostelry, 13-2 Temper Trap, 7-1 Darbucks, 8-1 Ratafia, Strangerontheshore, Do I Dream, 16-1 Sezaam.

4.25 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 7f) (7)

1 (3) 4- **BUSTAAM** 328 D O'Meara 3-9-7 **D Tudhope**
2 (7) 0 **FLETCHER'S FLIGHT** 13 P McBride 3-9-7 **B McHugh**
3 (5) -3230 **HILLS OF GOLD** 58 M Dods 3-9-7 **C Beasley**
4 (4) **DAZAMAY** P Kirby 3-9-2 **A Mullen**
5 (2) **LA JOLIE FILLE** M & D Easterby 3-9-2 **B Garritty**
6 (6) 20222 **MUBHIJAH** 70 (BF) E Walker 3-9-2 **R Coakley**
7 (1) 52 **TRUE NATION** 14 R Fahey 3-9-2 **J Garritty**

Evens Mubhijah, 3-1 True Nation, 5-1 Hills Of Gold, 13-2 Bustaam, 20-1 Dazamay, 25-1 La Jolie Fille, 150-1 Fletcher's Flight.

Course specialists

Bath: Trainers C Johnston, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; C Cox, 29 from 114, 25.4%. **Jockeys** P Bradley, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; B Loughnane, 9 from 46, 19.6%.

Carlisle: Trainers C Kellett, 3 from 9, 33.3%; G Tuer, 11 from 55, 20%. **Jockeys** C Lee, 10 from 52, 19.2%; M Winn, 4 from 21, 19%.

Kempton Park: Trainers K P De Foy, 25 from 129, 19.4%; Sir M Stoute, 30 from 158, 19%. **Jockeys** Kaiya Fraser, 3 from 12, 25%; James Doyle, 67 from 302, 22.2%.

Southwell: Trainers C Hills, 16 from 51, 31.4%; G L Moore, 3 from 10, 30%. **Jockeys** R Clutterbuck, 4 from 13, 30.8%; S Levey, 8 from 29, 27.6%.

Uttoxeter: Trainers Keiran Burke, 3 from 11, 27.3%; A West, 4 from 18, 22.2%. **Jockeys** S Bowen, 43 from 212, 20.3%; B Hughes, 27 from 142, 19%.

Blinkered first time: Kempton Park 5.30 Hadrian's Wall. 6.00 She Is A Keeper. 6.00 Midnight Force.

5.00 Handicap (£5,234: 7f) (10)

1 (3) -5310 **ENGELBERT** 168 (T,BF,D) J Ferguson 3-9-12 **Doubtful**
2 (5) 43105 **NAVAL ACADEMY** 21 (T) M Walford 3-9-10 **A Mullen**
3 (4) 10000 **BICEP** 25 (D) G Tuer 4-9-9 **S James**
4 (9) 16633 **WILLIAM DEWHIRST** 30 B Haslam 3-9-8 **G Lee**
5 (1) 32126 **TRABAJO DETECHO** 31 (P) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-7 **D Tudhope**
6 (6) 50600 **BOSSY PARKER** 18 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 3-9-7 **B McHugh**
7 (8) 1630- **ALEXA'S PRINCESS** 331 (D) K R Burke 3-9-6 **S Gray**
8 (2) 10001 **B ASSOCIATES** 13 (CD) J Goldie 3-9-6 **Mark Winn (3)**
9 (7) 04500 **SUNNY ORANGE** 13 (P) T Easterby 3-9-2 **S B Kirrane**
10 (10) 43200 **TASEVER** 45 (P) T Easterby 3-9-0 **D Fentiman**

9-4 B Associates, 4-1 William Dewhirst, 9-2 Trabajo Detecho, 8-1 Naval Academy, Alexa's Princess, 10-1 Tasever, Sunny Orange, 14-1 Bicep.

Kempton Park

Rob Wright

5.30 Rosenzoo
6.00 Midnight Force
6.30 Lincoln Royal
7.00 High Handed (nb)
7.30 Folk Star
8.00 CrackskING
8.30 Malka

Going: standard to slow
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best — **Racing TV**

5.30 Nursery (2-Y-O: £4,187: 1m) (7)

1 (3) 2303 **HADRIAN'S WALL** 33 (B) A Watson 9-7 **H Doyle**
2 (4) 5443 **ROSENZOO** 29 C Johnston 9-7 **R Kingscote**
3 (5) 033 **BULLDOG DRUMMOND** 18 G Boughey 9-6 **W Buick**
4 (1) 2003 **HAYA TAAL** 36 G Kelleway 9-6 **R Hornby**
5 (6) 06153 **AMERICAN TALE** 4 (BF,CD) B Meehan 9-5 **O Murphy**
6 (2) 00021 **PRIMETIME** 4 Alice Haynes 9-10(6ex) **C Howarth (5)**
7 (7) 0602 **ALFRED** 49 (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 9-4 **Rossa Ryan**

3-1 Primetime, 7-2 Bulldog Drummond, 4-1 American Tale, 5-1 Alfred, 7-1 Rosenzoo, 10-1 Haya Taal, Hadrian's Wall.

6.00 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,140: 6f) (8)

1 (3) 43024 **MOREGINPLEASE** 9 (P) J Ryan 9-11 **O Murphy**
2 (5) 050 **MEET ME IN MERAKI** 34 P Evans 9-11 **Rossa Ryan**
3 (8) 53222 **SHE IS A KEEPER** 33 (B,BF) G Kelleway 9-9 **H Doyle**
4 (1) 0400 **MIDNIGHT FORCE** 26 (B) Darryll Holland 9-9 **M Ghiani**
5 (2) 56023 **KANDY HOUSE** 12 C Johnston 9-8 **R Kingscote**
6 (6) 6004 **ZAMAN DAAR** 21 (T) I Mohammed 9-7 **T Marquand**
7 (4) 00602 **ZOLA POWER** 7 R Hughes 9-7 **W Buick**
8 (7) 05005 **JUNGLE DANCE** 7 J Butler 9-2 **D Keenan**

9-4 Zola Power, 9-2 Kandy House, 5-1 She Is A Keeper, 6-1 Moreginplease, Zaman Daar, 8-1 Meet Me In Meraki, 12-1 Midnight Force, 25-1 Jungle Dance.

6.30 Maiden Fillies' Stakes
(2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (12)

1 (10) 0 **BELLA GRAZIA** 11 Sir M Prescott 9-2 **D Keenan**
2 (2) **FAIR ANGELLICA** (H) R Hughes 9-2 **W Buick**
3 (11) **IFFRAAJ QUEEN** Miss A Murphy 9-2 **T Marquand**
4 (1) **IMOLA** Darryll Holland 9-2 **J F Egan**
5 (7) 30 **LINCOLN ROYAL** 76 (T,BF) I Furtado 9-2 **M Ghiani**
6 (6) 00 **MAMIES DREAM** 14 R Potter 9-2 **L Edmunds**
7 (5) 62450 **NELSON ROSE** 20 (H) A West 9-2 **C Shepherd**
8 (3) **PEARL OF ROWDOWN** M Usher 9-2 **G Rooke**
9 (9) **PRISCILLA'S JOY** P McBride 9-2 **Rossa Ryan**
10 (4) 0 **ROSADILLY** 37 J Portman 9-2 **R Hornby**
11 (12) **SHALLOW** R Spencer 9-2 **H Doyle**
12 (8) 2243 **SPARKLIGHT** 16 E J-Houghton 9-2 **O Murphy**

11-4 Sparklight, 4-1 Nelson Rose, 9-2 Lincoln Royal, 5-1 Fair Angellica, 7-1 Iffraaj Queen, 10-1 Shallow, 14-1 Imola, 25-1 Pearl Of Rowdown, Priscilla's Joy.

7.00 Maiden Fillies' Stakes
(2-Y-O: £3,672: 7f) (14)

1 (13) 0 **ALIKA BREEZE** 27 R Hughes 9-2 **G Rooke**
2 (6) 5 **ALLONSY** 28 R Beckett 9-2 **H Crouch**
3 (8) 0 **CARMARTHEN** 98 Jack Channon 9-2 **T Marquand**
4 (12) 0 **DIBBLE DABBLE** 14 J Ferguson 9-2 **S Moldoveanu (7)**
5 (11) 0 **GAASYAH** 41 R Hannon 9-2 **Rossa Ryan**
6 (9) **GOLDEN ARC** A Perrett 9-2 **R Hornby**
7 (7) 4 **HIGH HANDED** 28 (H) Brian O'Rourke 9-2 **O Murphy**
8 (14) **LADY INVICTUS** I Furtado 9-2 **Elle-May Croot (7)**
9 (2) 0 **ORBITAL** 13 Sir M Prescott 9-2 **D Keenan**
10 (5) **PRIVATE GETAWAY** Ollie Sangster 9-2 **Laura Pearson**
11 (1) **ROODY TOODY** R Phillips 9-2 **Kaiya Fraser (5)**
12 (10) **SALAMANCA CITY** J Fanshawe 9-2 **C Shepherd**
13 (4) **SIGHTER** R Hannon 9-2 **P Dobbs**
14 (3) 33 **STAR MUSIC** 15 R Hughes 9-2 **J Doyle**

9-4 High Handed, 9-2 Allonsy, Star Music, 7-1 Sighter, 12-1 Carmarthen, Private Getaway, 14-1 Salamanca City, 16-1 Gaasyah, Golden Arc.

7.30 Fillies' Handicap (£4,187: 1m 3f) (8)

1 (4) 61215 **DAPHNE MAY** 30 (C) G L Moore 5-10-2 **H Crouch**
2 (8) 30562 **ROSE LIGHT** 30 J Portman 4-9-12 **R Hornby**
3 (5) /60-6 **SHOWLAN SPIRIT** 63 G Baker 4-9-8 **T Marquand**
4 (3) 03033 **FOLK STAR** 14 D M Simcock 3-9-4 **C Shepherd**
5 (2) 02036 **STRICTLY DREAMING** 12 I Williams 3-9-3 **W Buick**
6 (6) 42660 **CRAZY MAISIE** 86 M Hoad 4-9-2 **C Howarth (5)**
7 (1) -4030 **BUSH ROSE** 13 (H) P McEntee 3-9-0 **J F Egan**
8 (7) 0603 **ALPHA FEMALE** 13 E De Giles 3-8-13 **Rossa Ryan**

2-1 Rose Light, 11-4 Daphne May, 5-1 Folk Star, 7-1 Strictly Dreaming, 10-1 Showlan Spirit, Alpha Female, 20-1 Crazy Maisie, Bush Rose.

8.00 Maiden Stakes (£5,346: 1m 4f) (13)

1 (11) 22-22 **ATLANTIS BLUE** 21 (H) G Baker 4-9-10 **T Marquand**
2 (6) 55 **A POET'S SECRET** 23 M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-7 **M Ghiani**
3 (10) 3424 **CRACKSKING** 25 J Fanshawe 3-9-7 **W Buick**
4 (8) 4 **HAMPDEN PARK** 182 A Balding 3-9-7 **O Murphy**
5 (4) 43 **TRUST HOUSE** 124 R Beckett 3-9-7 **H Crouch**
6 (9) 05 **TRUTH WILL OUT** 40 A King 3-9-7 **Rossa Ryan**
7 (12) 33 **ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL** 57 (T) I Furtado 3-9-2 **Elle-May Croot (7)**
8 (7) 04 **BUGANVILLEA** 21 (P) H Candy 3-9-2 **G Rooke**
9 (1) 00 **LESLEYANNE** 13 D Ivory 3-9-2 **J Smith**
10 (2) 222 **LET LIFE HAPPEN** 35 (BF) Sir M Stoute 3-9-2 **R Kingscote**
11 (3) 05 **ROCK GODDESS** 34 (T) J Fanshawe 3-9-2 **C Shepherd**
12 (5) 6 **SILVER BOBBIN** 17 A West 3-9-2 **Laura Pearson**
13 (13) 3 **WAXING GIBBOUS** 17 D Menuisier 3-9-2 **H Doyle**

11-4 Let Life Happen, 3-1 Crackskng, 7-2 Atlantis Blue, 5-1 Another Beautiful, 10-1 Waxing Gibbous, 12-1 Trust House, 14-1 Hampden Park, 16-1 A Poet's Secret.

8.30 Handicap (£4,187: 1m 4f) (11)

1 (5) 60002 **OPEN CHAMPION** 28 (V,D) A King 4-10-4 **Rossa Ryan**
2 (6) 21020 **EAGLE COURT** 25 (D) M Blake 6-10-0 **M Ghiani**
3 (11) 14431 **SILVER NIGHTFALL** 14 (CD) G Kelleway 3-9-10 **H Doyle**
4 (8) 00056 **WILKIE** 17 J Butler 5-9-8 **D Keenan**
5 (1) 3204 **MALKA** 27 K P De Foy 3-9-8 **B Sayette**
6 (10) 533 **MORDOR** 68 D M Simcock 3-9-7 **O Murphy**
7 (4) 24043 **BEAUTIFUL CROWN** 13 B Johnson 5-9-6 **Laura Pearson**
8 (7) -4635 **SO FARHH SO GOOD** 32 (H) Owen Burrows 3-9-6 **J Crowley**
9 (3) 521-0 **HAVANAZAM** 19 (P) A Balding 3-9-5 **R Hornby**
10 (2) 10064 **MAID IN LONDON** 46 (P) H Palmer 3-9-2 **T Marquand**
11 (9) 35334 **STAGE SHOW** 28 (P,BF) H & R Charlton 3-9-0 **R Kingscote**

4-1 Silver Nightfall, 9-2 Open Champion, 5-1 Stage Show, 7-1 Mordor, Maid In London, 8-1 So Farhh So Good, 12-1 Malka, Beautiful Crown.

Uttoxeter

Rob Wright

2.25 Pittsburg
3.00 Bumble Bee Bet
3.35 Friary Rock
4.10 Enthused
4.45 Vokolohs
5.20 Jack The Farmer

Going: good to soft — **Sky Sports Racing**

2.25 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m) (12)

1 643P- **APOLOGISE** 173 (H,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 4-12-0 **T Wynne (3)**
2 -5110 **AMBASSADOR** 14 (V,CD) M Hammond 6-11-13 **J Thompson (10)**
3 14-06 **ROLYPOLYMOLY** F9 (V,CD) A West 4-11-13 **B Ffrench-Davis (3)**
4 66-42 **ISABELLA BEE** 22 F O'Brien 6-11-12 **L Harrison (3)**
5 324-3 **LEOPOLDS ROCK** 14 (P,CD) P Kirby 7-11-7 **J Williamson**
6 54112 **PITTSBURG** 16 (T) R Potter 7-11-5 **F Lambert**
7 00-32 **A SHINING MOON** F15 (P) P Midgley 5-11-3 **T Midgley**
8 01645 **GREEN OR BLACK** 23 (P,T,CD) N Mulholland 11-10-12 **Mr E Rees (10)**
9 -5224 **ONLY FOOLS** 55 (W,H,T) D Pipe 4-10-10 **Mr G Harney (8)**
10 -0632 **WILLY NILLY** 14 Miss L Harrison 6-10-10 **C Rabbitt**
11 0-426 **ESCOBEDO** 11 (P,T) M Harris 5-10-9 **B Harris (3)**
12 44-P0 **CECI WELLS** 84 (W,B) P Webber 6-10-2 **E Collier (5)**

11-4 Pittsburg, 100-30 Isabella Bee, 6-1 A Shining Moon, 8-1 Ambassador, 10-1 Only Fools, 12-1 Leopolds Rock, Willy Nilly, Escobedo.

3.00 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (11)

1 1-500 **BUMBLE BEE BET** 21 C Byrnes (Ire) 5-11-4 **P Byrnes (3)**
2 3P3 **CARPE DIEM** 20 D Bridgwater 5-11-4 **B J Powell**
3 520 **CLIMBING** 22 (T) J Snowden 5-11-4 **G Sheehan**
4 /P0F- **EMOTIONAL MEMORIES** 203 (H) D J Jeffreys 6-11-4 **K Woods**
5 65 **FLYING STANDARD** 23 (T) Miss A Murphy 6-11-4 **J O'Neill Jr**
6 30-4F **INDIAN SUNBIRD** 38 Sara Ender 6-11-4 **J Williamson (5)**
7 6053/ **NORVICS REFLECTION** 877 (T) B Case 8-11-4 **H Bannister**
8 P16/5 **RED RIVER VALLEY** 22 (T) F O'Brien 7-11-4 **C Brace**
9 30-24 **SEINESATIONAL** 22 (V,BF) Dr R Newland 8-11-4 **S Twiston-Davies**
10 22033 **SHANDANCER** 22 (P,T) Miss A Murphy 6-11-4 **J Quinlan**
11 0P/ **STRIP LIGHT** F278 Paula Smith 6-11-4 **C Nichol**

11-4 Seinesational, 3-1 Shandancer, 9-2 Bumble Bee Bet, 15-2 Climbing, 8-1 Red River Valley, 10-1 Carpe Diem, 12-1 Indian Sunbird, 14-1 Norvics Reflection.

3.35 Handicap Chase (£4,859: 2m 4f) (8)

1 6-32F **FAT SAM** 44 (BF,D) C Down 9-12-0 **J Davies**
2 54124 **GETAWAY LUV** 14 (P,T) Lizzie Quinlan 8-11-9 **S Quinlan**
3 P-F3P **INISHBIGGLE** 41 (P,T) G Hanmer 8-11-9 **K Brogan**
4 -4242 **TRAPISTA** 20 (V) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-6 **J O'Neill Jr**
5 231P3 **LERMOOS LEGEND** 16 (P) P Bowen 8-11-5 **Doubtful**
6 2P0-6 **CREATIVE CONTROL** 15 D McCain 7-11-2 **B Hughes**
7 -1343 **FRIARY ROCK** 20 (T,V,D) L Morgan 8-11-0 **A Wedge**
8 -52P3 **MRS KINSELLA** 83 R Potter 7-10-2 **C J Todd**

9-4 Fat Sam, 3-1 Trapista, 7-2 Getaway Luv, 6-1 Friary Rock, 10-1 Creative Control, 12-1 Inishbiggle, 16-1 Mrs Kinsella.

4.10 Handicap Hurdle (£9,886: 2m) (8)

1 4010- **PRINCE ESCALUS** 164 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 8-12-0 **J O'Neill Jr**
2 1F236 **GLORIOUS ZOFF** 18 (H,T,D) F O'Brien 6-11-9 **L Harrison**
3 32035 **HURRICANE ALI** 6 (BF,CD) J Mackie 7-11-7 **S Quinlan**
4 PPP5- **RATHMACKNEE** 138 Mrs D O'Neill 7-11-5 **G Sheehan**
5 /05U0 **BOOM BOOM BOOM** 38 (P) C Byrnes (Ire) 6-10-10 **P Byrnes (3)**
6 5-611 **SIMPLY RED** 23 (P,T) D McCain 5-10-9 **C Maggs (10)**
7 32221 **ENTHUSED** 14 (P,CD) James Owen 6-10-8 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
8 31104 **CALL ME ROCKY** 18 (T,D) M Harris 6-10-8 **H Cobden**

11-4 Simply Red, 3-1 Enthused, 6-1 Boom Boom Boom, Glorious Zoff, 8-1 Hurricane Ali, Call Me Rocky, 10-1 Prince Escalus, 20-1 Rathmacknee.

4.45 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 3m) (8)

1 /450- **VOKOLOHS** 281 (P,T) O Murphy 7-12-0 **S Bowen**
2 5-451 **CAN'T BEAT HISTORY** 25 (T) Henry Oliver 7-11-10 **L Edwards**
3 0-045 **DECORATION OF WAR** 15 M Young 8-11-7 **C Hammond**
4 23623 **SINISTER MINISTER** 22 (B,T) Sheila Lewis 8-11-5 **S Houlihan**
5 4-P11 **YA KNOW YASEFF** 2 (B,T) D Pipe 6-11-2(7ex) **J Tudor**
6 65540 **BARELY FAMOUS** 43 (P,T) R Potter 7-11-0 **C Quinn (5)**
7 P13PP **TALKINGTHETALK** 22 (P,T,C) Sheila Lewis 6-10-10 **B R Jones**
8 444P- **SCOTTSDALE** F24 P Winks 10-10-2 **Doubtful**

2-1 Can't Beat History, 9-4 Ya Know Yaseff, 5-1 Sinister Minister, 6-1 Vokolohs, 14-1 Decoration Of War, Barely Famous, 16-1 Talkingthetalk.

5.20 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 7f) (13)

1 1224P **LIGHTHOUSE MILL** 15 David Dennis 6-12-0 **F Gingell (7)**
2 2/P-5 **FRANZ KLAMMER** 20 (H,T) P Pritchard 11-11-10 **C Deutsch**
3 22125 **JACK THE FARMER** 22 (P,D) N Hawke 7-11-9 **S Bowen**
4 04153 **SUNSHINE GIRL** 16 G Hanmer 6-11-6 **R McLernon**
5 2-44 **STILETTO** F21 (P,T,BF) K Burke 5-11-5 **T Bellamy**
6 32-12 **EATON LADY** 70 (T,BF,CD) G Brown 7-11-3 **Isabelle Ryder (10)**
7 36246 **YOU SAY ITS OVER** 16 M Hammond 5-10-12 **B Hughes**
8 5-521 **HORIZON D'OR** 12 (T) A West 6-10-11 **J Moore**
9 P36P6 **DEER HUNTER** 70 Mrs D O'Neill 7-10-10 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
10 236-0 **WOT YOU WEARING** 59 (T) R Stephens 6-10-9 **S Houlihan**
11 0-0P6 **MACTAVISH** 20 M Sheppard 6-10-9 **R Patrick**
12 P5454 **DYNALI** 23 (B,T) S-J Davies 7-10-7 **C Ring (3)**
13 0PP43 **BEGOODTOYOURSELF** 50 (P) C Kellett 8-10-3 **P Armson (3)**

3-1 Horizon D'or, 100-30 Eaton Lady, 11-2 Jack The Farmer, 7-1 Stiletto, 8-1 Sunshine Girl, 10-1 Lighthouse Mill, 16-1 others.

Yesterday's racing results

Catterick

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

1.30 (1m 5f 192yd) 1, **Sameem** (Mrs Emily Roberts, 3-1); 2, Let Her Loose (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Lochnaver (7-1). 5 ran. Nk, 4¾l. T Easterby.

2.05 (7f 6yd) 1, **Mutanaaseq** (J P Sullivan, 5-1); 2, Liberty Breeze (9-2); 3, Galileo Glass (4-1 fav). 13 ran. NR: Saisons D'Or. ½l, hd. Mrs R Carr.

2.40 (5f 212yd) 1, **O G Beachwear** (Jason Hart, 4-7 fav); 2, Della (6-4); 3, The Spinmeister (80-1). 4 ran. 2½l, 10l. H Palmer.

3.10 (5f 212yd) 1, **Havana Rum** (D Nolan, 5-1); 2, Langholm (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Wade's Magic (5-2 jt-fav). 6 ran. NR: All In The Hips, Koropick, One More Dream, South Dakota Sioux. 1l, 3l. R Fahey.

3.40 (1m 4f 13yd) 1, **The Dancing Poet** (Ben Robinson, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Tiberio Force (11-1); 3, Propagation (11-2). 11 ran. NR: Act Of Will, Haven Lady, Prince Achille, This Ones For Fred. 1¼l, 1¼l. B Ellison.

4.15 (5f) 1, **Albegone** (D Allan, 3-1 fav); 2, Jojo Rabbit (6-1); 3, Murbih (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Castan, Birkenhead, Vadamiah. ½l, 1¾l. T Easterby.

4.50 (7f 6yd) 1, **Vince Le Prince** (D Allan, 9-1); 2, Highfield Viking (11-8 fav); 3, Eagle Day (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Common Acclaim, Dance Angel. Nk, hd. T Easterby.

Placepot: £25.60. Quadpot: £12.70.

Kelso

Going: good

4.25 (3m 1f 170yd hdle) 1, **Judicial Law** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 11-4 fav); 2, Czech Her Out (9-2); 3, Ashington (100-30). 6 ran. NR: Burbank, Dinoland. Nk, 2l. Jonjo O'Neill.

5.00 (2m 51yd hdle) 1, **Caithness** (D R Fox, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Noble Anthem (9-4); 3, The Mass Path (7-4 jt-fav). 7 ran. NR: City Vaults, Mekbat. 4½l, 18l. Miss Lucinda V Russell.

5.35 (2m 7f 96yd ch) 1, **Bella Bliss** (Mr A Harvey, 8-11 fav). 2 ran. NR: Pull Again Green. J C McConnell.

6.05 (2m 1f 14yd ch) 1, **Minella Youngy** (Craig Nichol, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Getaway Jewel (11-1); 3, Restandbethankful (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Rakhine State. 3l, 5½l. I Jardine.

6.35 (2m 4f 189yd hdle) 1, **Imperial Data** (Ross Chapman, 4-1); 2, Jumping Susie (11-8 fav); 3, Jem In Em (5-2). 8 ran. 1¾l, 6l. R Menzies.

7.05 (2m 4f 189yd hdle) 1, **Darkest Day** (Jamie Hamilton, 9-1); 2, Call Me Harry (5-2); 3, I Am Spider Man (5-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Jimmy Rabbitte. 2¾l, sh hd. W Young Jr.

Jackpot: £10,000.00 — part won. Pool of £2,707.57 carried forward to Southwell today.

Placepot: £49.70. Quadpot: £13.90.

Leicester

Going: good to soft

1.40 (1m 2f) 1, **Bay Of Naples** (Connor Planas, 4-1 fav); 2, Fillyfudge (7-1); 3, Hot Team (10-1). 10 ran. 1½l, ½l. M Herrington.

2.15 (7f) 1, **Spiritual** (K Shoemark, 9-1); 2, Surveyor (7-2); 3, Lokana (18-1). 14 ran. 2l, ¾l. J & T Gosden.

2.50 (7f) 1, **Line Sheet** (Daniel Muscutt, 9-2); 2, Mullins Beach (3-1); 3, Anonymous Guest (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Arizona Desert, Mad Punter. 1¾l, 1½l. George Scott.

3.25 (7f) 1, **Blue Lemons** (S M Levey, 22-1); 2, Midnite Storm (7-1); 3, Al Shabab Storm (33-1). 11 ran. ½l, ns. R Hannon.

4.00 (1m 3f 179yd) 1, **Tarraff** (James Doyle, 2-1); 2, Total Lockdown (25-1); 3, Letaba (9-1). 5 ran. NR: Sea Of Charm, Byzantine Empire. 3½l, 1¾l. S & E Crisford.

4.35 (1m 2f) 1, **Never Ending** (R Havlin, 5-2 fav); 2, Zarabanda (7-2); 3, Al Hargah (4-1). 7 ran. NR: Absolute Queen, Avon Light, Oh So Grand, Thebeautifulgame, Miss Bluebelle. 1¾l, 5l. J & T Gosden.

5.10 (5f) 1, **Secret Mistral** (Hollie Doyle, 4-1); 2, Moulin Booj (5-4 fav); 3, Hurt You Never (5-2). 4 ran. NR: Indian Sounds, Leodis Dream, Stone Of Destiny, The Grey Lass. 1¼l, ½l. A W Carroll.

Placepot: £1,985.40. Quadpot: £361.90.

Worcester

Going: good to soft

1.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Lusitanien** (Liam Harrison, 7-4 fav); 2, Mutual Respect (5-1); 3, Gone In Sixty (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Getaman. 4¾l, 3¼l. F O'Brien.

2.25 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Glajou** (Bryan Carver, 100-30 fav); 2, Iron Heart (4-1); 3, College Oak (12-1). 7 ran. 12l, 15l. N P Mulholland.

3.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Painless Potter** (Kielan Woods, 9-2); 2, Police Academy (11-8 fav); 3, Ben Lilly (16-1). 7 ran. 3l, 3½l. S Lycett.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Presenting Nelly** (Harry Skelton, 2-1 fav); 2, Come On Du Berlais (4-1); 3, Hedera Park (9-1). 8 ran. NR: Fountainspinklady. 7l, 13l. D Skelton.

4.05 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Hungry Hill** (Nick Scholfield, 6-1); 2, Karavomylos (6-5 fav); 3, Nickelsonthedime (17-2). 8 ran. NR: Chives, Hunting Percival. 1¼l, ¾l. Jonjo O'Neill.

4.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Emanate** (Thomosina Eyston, 4-1); 2, Diana Prince (8-1); 3, Embolden (13-2). 7 ran. NR: Graffiti, Mawlood, Ten Ten Twenty, Thorpeness. 1¼l, 10l. N P Mulholland.

Placepot: £24.60. Quadpot: £8.40.





JOHN WALTON/PA



Archer, main and inset, has not played cricket since May after suffering a recurrence of a stress fracture but was back in the nets yesterday, in the presence of Flintoff, left

Archer returns to nets in boost for England

Jofra Archer's chances of featuring in the World Cup have been boosted after the fast bowler made his return to bowling in the nets during England's training session yesterday morning (Elizabeth Ammon writes).

Archer has not played for England since March 14 on the tour to Bangladesh, nor has he played cricket for any side since May 6 due to a recurrence of a stress fracture to his right elbow.

But the 28-year-old bowled sharply off almost a full run-up at the Kia Oval as England prepared for today's third one-day international against New Zealand.

He was seen working with Andrew Flintoff, who is helping to coach the England white-ball team during this series. Archer's elbow issue meant that he was not named in the provisional 15-man squad for the World Cup, and Luke Wright, the England selector, said that the "best case scenario" is that he could feature at the back end of the six-week tournament in India that begins on October 5.

This means that the Sussex fast bowler, a key part of England's 2019 World Cup-winning side on home soil, is likely to fly to India as a travelling reserve and continue with his recovery there while training with the rest of the squad.

He could be brought into the main squad in the event of an injury to one of the other bowlers, provided he is fit.

Archer has been building up his bowling workloads at his home county ground, Hove, but England are wary of rushing him into a return, particularly because their long-term aim is to get him playing Test cricket again. He most recently played a home Test in front of fans exactly four years ago.

"He [Jofra] looks in a good place," David Willey, the all-rounder, said after training yesterday. "He was bowling good wheels out there today.

"Everyone knows how good he is, what he is capable of and how he can impact games, so to have him close or not far away from being fit is obviously fantastic news."

Willey also hailed the presence of Flintoff — who has returned to the game after suffering serious injuries in a horror crash while filming for *Top Gear* in December — around the squad as fantastic. "It's been great to have him with us. He is a legend of the game," Willey said of the 45-year-old.

"I grew up watching him play and to have him here with us, just his presence and everything he's done in the game is fantastic.

"It's quite surreal receiving compliments from Freddie so just to be able to pick his brain and talk to him about the game and have him around the group is so fantastic."

England v New Zealand
Third ODI (four-match series level at 1-1)
Today, 12.30pm, Kia Oval
TV Sky Sports Cricket

'Flintoff pinching himself to be back'

England assistant Test coach Paul Collingwood tells **Elizabeth Ammon** about reuniting with his former team-mate

During Paul Collingwood's international career, it was Andrew Flintoff whom he played with most often. The two all-rounders featured in the same England team on 134 occasions, developing a friendship that went beyond being team-mates.

They last played together in 2009. Their lives then went in different directions but now they have ended up back in the same place, as assistant coaches with the England team.

But while Flintoff is just easing his way back into the world of cricket, Collingwood never went away as he moved into coaching immediately after the end of his playing career. The pair have now reconnected this summer as Flintoff continued his recovery from the serious accident he was involved in while filming for BBC's *Top Gear* in December.

Flintoff is in an unpaid role, working with the England one-day team during the present four-match series against New Zealand, and Collingwood is in an extended period of time off between Test series. The pair caught up in the England team hotel in London on Monday night, almost exactly 18 years after the famous 2005 Ashes win they featured in.

"It was great to see him," Collingwood said. "I think it is important not just for the team that he is here, but for him as well. He has given so much to English cricket and [with] the knowledge and experience he has, it is great to see him back in a team environment. It's important for him and the team. It is great to see him with a smile on his face and loving the sport that he gave so much to.

"I saw him during the summer at the Old Trafford Test but I caught up with him last night at the team hotel and he is in great spirits. He is really enjoying being around the lads. It's great to see; I think he's just enjoying the camaraderie again. He said he has to pinch himself that he's back around the England cricket environment. I think it's a humbling experience."



Collingwood shows his fielding prowess

Because of the packed nature of the international schedule, coaching roles with England are now split between white ball and red ball and Collingwood is the assistant coach of the Test team, which means he will be at home working on his golf handicap until England's tour to India in January. However, he says he will be watching the one-day tournament closely.

"You've probably got 22 or 24 cricketers who are ready to go to that World Cup and unfortunately they can only take 15, although that is a great place to be," he said. "You'd rather that than the other way around. It shows how strong England are at the moment — they have the skill and experience to win World Cups. No matter which squad you choose, they have a real chance of retaining the World Cup.

"You go through the full array of emotions in a World Cup. They are long and you will go through ups and downs and you have to keep focused on your beliefs and philosophy. It is going to be a great World Cup — to be in India, it's like nothing else. There will be a lot of noise and you have to manage that. It is a fantastic place to play cricket, though. The players are now very experienced in different conditions and lots play in the IPL, so it's not really foreign to them, it's almost home from home. It is not as alien as it used to be to English players.

"I was a bit surprised that Ben [Stokes] chose to come out of retirement but when you look back at the footage of the 2019 final, you can understand he'd want more of those sorts of memories when he looks back on his career. When it comes to crunch situations, he's the man you want there."

Collingwood was at the Oval yesterday, working with some coaches and kids as part of the "Play Their Way" initiative, which encourages coaches to have expression, individuality and fun at the heart of their training sessions and not to get too technical too early, a philosophy that is also at the centre of "Bazball". Research shows that enjoyment is the biggest motivator for children and young people to be active, and yet just under half of those who take part in regular sport say they enjoy it.

"It's almost allowing the kids to run the sessions and allow for the enjoyment. It's how we do things under Brendon [McCullum, the England Test head coach] and Ben. We put the emphasis on players, giving them the voice, and we want that to filter to the grassroots.

"You also tend to get the best out of people when they are enjoying themselves. The Ashes was edge-of-the-seat stuff all the way through and the unpredictability of every session had everyone gripped and got people wanting to come back time and again to watch. We want to make sure we harness that."

● *To learn more about the Play Their Way campaign visit www.playtheirway.org*

Collingwood's coaching career

Jan 2011 Retires from Test cricket
Winter 2013-14 Becomes interim coach of Scotland
Feb 2014 Named fielding coach for England's T20 World Cup campaign
Winter 2014-15 Works as fielding consultant for UAE. Rejoins Scotland for One-Day World Cup
Sept 2015 Acts as batting consultant for England for winter tour and then T20 World Cup in 2016
Sept 2018 Retires from all cricket
Nov 2019 Becomes England's permanent assistant coach
Feb 2022 Named England interim coach for tour to the West Indies. Misses out on white-ball role and becomes assistant Test coach.

Halep given four-year ban for 'intentional' doping rule breach

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Simona Halep, the 2019 Wimbledon champion, has been suspended for four years after a tribunal found that she had intentionally breached doping rules.

The former world No 1 tested positive for roxadustat, a banned blood-booster, during last year's US Open and subsequently had irregularities discovered in her athlete biological passport (ABP) following the analysis of 51 blood samples. The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has concluded that "likely doping" was the explanation.

This is one of the most high-profile drugs bans in tennis this century. It comes seven years after Maria Sharapova, another Wimbledon champion and world No 1, was banned for 15 months after testing positive for meldonium.

In response, Halep said she was "shocked and disappointed". The Romanian insisted that she will launch an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, while also taking legal action against a "supplement company".

"I take rules that govern our sport very seriously and take pride in the fact I have never knowingly or intentionally used any prohibited substance," Halep, 31, said. "I refused to accept their decision.

"Ahead of the hard-court season in 2022, upon recommendation from my team and physiotherapist, I adjusted my nutritional supplements. None of the ingredients included any prohibited substances, however we now know — and the tribunal agreed — one of them was contaminated with roxadustat."

Halep added that she was "continuing to train and do everything in my power to clear my name". But if the ban to October 6, 2026, is upheld — it is dated back to the start of her provisional ban last year — it will be extremely challenging to make a comeback at the age of 35 after a long period of inactivity.

Halep and several of her associates have complained on social media over the past year about the length of the decision-making process. The ITIA made clear the complexities of the case, pointing out that the tribunal had received approximately 8,000 pages of evidence.

"The volume of evidence for the tribunal to consider was substantial," Karen Moorhouse, the ITIA chief executive, said. "The ITIA has followed processes as we would with any other individual — in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code — fulfilling our purpose and responsibility to uphold the principle of fair competition."

ROBERT PRANGE/GETTY IMAGES



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Weeks spent at No 1 by Halep, across two spells from 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Romanian won the French Open in 2018 and Wimbledon in 2019

Former world No 1 Halep is to appeal against the decision to ban her for four years — one of which she has already served

The independent tribunal accepted Halep's argument that she had taken a contaminated supplement, but determined the volume ingested could not have resulted in the concentration found. Roxadustat is an oral medication used to treat anaemia caused by chronic kidney failure. It stimulates the production of erythropoietin and haemoglobin, increasing capacity of the blood to carry oxygen, enhancing performance.

The panel added that they had no reason to doubt the unanimous "strong opinion" reached by three independent experts that "likely doping" was the explanation for the irregularities in Halep's ABP. The ITIA said experts were unaware at first that the passport information belonged to Halep as analysis is carried out on an anonymous basis.

Halep was one of the most consistent performers on the WTA Tour over the past decade, winning 24 titles, including the 2018 French Open and Wimbledon a year later, and earning £32.2 million in prize money. She spent 64 weeks as the top-ranked player in the world.

"It is of utmost importance for players to be aware of the Tennis Anti-Doping Program rules," a WTA statement read. "The WTA will support the decisions and will continue to follow this closely."

Smith: Davis Cup squad is gut decision

John Westerby

Great Britain are hoping that a record crowd will carry them through the group stage of the Davis Cup to earn qualification for the quarter-finals.

Britain take on Australia at the AO Arena in Manchester today, with further contests to follow against Switzerland on Friday and France on Sunday, when a sell-out of 13,500 is expected, which will be the biggest crowd to watch a Davis Cup match in this country.

Leon Smith, the British captain, will name his line-up to face Australia at lunchtime, an hour before play, making the tricky decision of which two players to select for the singles from Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans, Andy Murray and Jack Draper, along with selecting a doubles partner for Neal Skupski.

"You want a strong squad, different options, because it's a long week," Smith said. "Everyone's arrived fit and healthy. I'm delighted with the options. Jack hasn't played in the Davis Cup, but he came with us to Colombia [in the qualifying round]. Everyone else has got a ton of experience. At the end of the day, you go with your gut instinct."

Norrie is Britain's highest-ranked player as the world No 17, with Evans No 27, Murray No 41 and Draper No 106. They will face an Australia team who were beaten in the Davis Cup final by Canada last year. Australia's challenge is led by Alex de Minaur, the world No 12, and is backed up by Max Purcell, at No 43, Jordan Thompson, at No 55, and Thanasi Kokkinakis, at No 74.

There are 16 nations competing in Manchester and the top two from each group will advance to November's knockout stage in Spain. Each tie has two singles matches and one in doubles.

Although healthy crowds are expected to watch Britain play, the neutral matches are a much harder sell and there was a barbed comment from Stan Wawrinka on social media yesterday before Switzerland's tie against France.

With a meagre crowd in the early stages in Manchester, Wawrinka sarcastically thanked Gerard Piqué, the former Spain footballer, whose company instigated a revamp of the Davis Cup to ensure more matches are played on neutral territory, rather than in one of the competing nations. Posting a video of the sparsely populated stands, Wawrinka wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "Thank you @3gerardpique @ITFTennis. France vs Switzerland in Manchester lol."

Rowlands keeps focus on team game

Rugby World Cup
Elgan Alderman Nice

One of the headline statistics from Wales's 32-26 victory over Fiji on Sunday evening was the 27 tackles made by Will Rowlands, part of a tournament record of 253 by the team. The lock, however, does not hang his hat on such numbers.

"I always find it a bit weird when the number of tackles becomes the headline because you defend in a system," Rowlands, 32 next Tuesday, said. "Guys run at you and you tackle them. It's nice people say nice things but I just see it as me doing my job for the team."

The match was Rowlands's 26th for Wales, meaning that he is clear of the nation's 25-cap threshold for overseas players to remain eligible for international selection. After the World Cup he joins Racing 92 from Dragons.

Six days after the battering Wales took in their bonus-point victory on Sunday, they will face Portugal in Nice. They are certain to make sweeping changes and opt to keep their first-choice XV fresh for the potentially pivotal pool match with Australia in Lyon eight days later.

Portugal are making their second appearance at the tournament and it would be the biggest upset in the tournament's history if Wales were to lose. Warren Gatland will name his team today and — though a full card of 15 changes is unlikely — a double-figures tally is probable.

"You will have seen for yourselves what a physical game it was and the amount of tackles we made," Jonathan Thomas, the contact area coach, said of the Fiji encounter. "There are a number of sore bodies, but there are no injury concerns. It is safe to say there will be changes. We've got complete and utter faith in our whole squad."

Dan Biggar and Liam Williams undertook light running and Adam Beard was on an assault bike while the rest of the squad went through the warm-up for training yesterday.

Sam Costelow or Gareth Anscombe could replace Biggar at fly half. Anscombe is the only player not to have featured in the past four matches and if he were to be named at full back, Wales could change the whole back line, provided Leigh Halfpenny plays on the wing. Otherwise Josh Adams, who was taken off shortly before the hour mark last Sunday, may line up again.

In the forwards, the main considerations are whether to give Taulupe Faletau another run at No 8, having missed the summer series, and whether to play Christ Tshiunza at lock to give Beard and Rowlands a rest.

Bielle-Biarrey set to break record for hosts France

Rugby World Cup France's Louis Bielle-Biarrey made quite an impression with his silky footwork in his first Test, scoring a try against Scotland last month, and tomorrow the winger will become his country's youngest player to feature at a World Cup. The 20-year-old made the squad after featuring in three warm-up games and, while he is behind Damian Penaud and Gabin Villière in the pecking order, all eyes will be on the Bordeaux-Bègles player when he starts against Uruguay in pool A.

He has played only 28 matches in the French Top 14 since his debut in 2022 as he also pursues business and administration management studies.

France team to face Uruguay
M Jaminet; L Bielle-Biarrey, A Vincent, Y Moefana, G Villière; A Hastoy, M Lucu; J-B Gros, P Bourgarit, D Aldegheri, C Woki, R Taofifénua, P Boudehent, S Macalou, A Jelonch (capt). **Replacements** P Mauvaka, R Wardi, S Falatea, B Chalureau, T Flament, F Cros, B Couilloud, T Ramos.

Van Hooydonck taken to hospital after accident

Cycling The Belgian rider Nathan van Hooydonck was in hospital last night after being involved in a car accident while driving his pregnant wife.

The Belgian newspaper Het Nieuwsblad reported Van Hooydonck was in a critical condition, but his Jumbo-Visma team later issued a statement to say that wasn't the case.

"Nathan van Hooydonck is awake and [did not] suffer injuries because of the traffic accident. His health situation is not critical," the statement read. "Further medical examinations have to determine why Nathan became unwell while driving."

Van Hooydonck, 27, was waiting at a junction in the town of Kalmthout, near Antwerp, with his wife in the passenger seat when he became unwell and accelerated into traffic.

His team-mate, Jonas Vingegaard, won the 16th stage of La Vuelta and dedicated the win to his "best friend".

Sluggish warm-ups part of plan,

Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent, Le Touquet



Aled Walters operates in light and shade. As England's head of strength and conditioning, Walters has been sending the players into "dark places" over the past 12 weeks to get them fit for the World Cup.

That work, which involves almost breaking a player in the knowledge they will emerge stronger on the other side, paid dividends at the weekend as England defeated Argentina in their opening game of the tournament, despite playing with 14 men for 77 minutes.

Despite his natural personality, Walters used to be the kind of coach who only cracked the whip. That was until Mark Taylor, the former Wales centre, told him during a stint working for the Scarlets that he was the "most negative fitness coach" he had ever worked with.

"That cut me to the bone," Walters said. "I'm hard because I know where we have to build to. But I need to smile and I get energy from people laughing and smiling a lot."

And so Walters is the first to try to brighten the mood in the England camp, whether that is interrupting an intense Steve Borthwick speech with a quip, celebrating a nutmeg of David Ribbans in pre-training football games like he was Alan Shearer or embarrassing Kevin Sinfield in front of the squad.

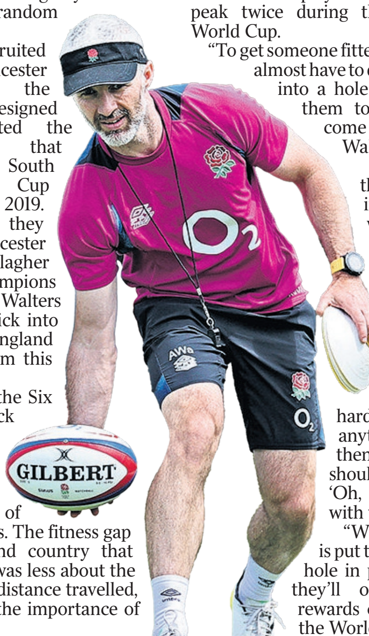
Sinfield, England's defence coach, turned 43 yesterday. Walters led everyone through three renditions of *Happy Birthday*, just to make him feel as uncomfortable as possible.

"The lads always respond well to taking the piss out of someone," Walters said. "I remember the very first time I had a call with Steve. He is very, very aware of himself and he said, 'I need someone who is going to smile because I don't really do that too much'.

"He has always given me the licence to do whatever I feel is needed. A couple of times, I think he feels I have sabotaged his meetings by shouting out random crap."

Borthwick recruited Walters for Leicester Tigers after the Welshman had designed and implemented the fitness plan that underpinned South Africa's World Cup triumph in 2019. Together, they transformed Leicester into Gallagher Premiership champions last year and Walters followed Borthwick into the England management team this summer.

At the end of the Six Nations, Borthwick said that his team were not fit enough. They had lost the final quarter in four of their five matches. The fitness gap between club and country that Walters noticed was less about the aerobic effort or distance travelled, but more about the importance of being able to execute skills and make good decisions under fatigue.



Walters said that he has taken England players to "dark places"

The next round of fixtures

Pool A

Tomorrow France v Uruguay — **ITV4**
(Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille)

Friday New Zealand v Namibia — **ITV4**
(Stadium de Toulouse)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Italy	1	1	0	0	52	8	1	5
France	1	1	0	0	27	13	0	4
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0	1	13	27	0	0
Namibia	1	0	0	1	8	52	0	0

Pool B

Saturday Ireland v Tonga — **ITV1**
(Stade de la Beaujoire, Nantes)

Sunday South Africa v Romania — **ITV1**
(Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ireland	1	1	0	0	82	8	1	5
South Africa	1	1	0	0	18	3	0	4
Tonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	3	18	0	0
Romania	1	0	0	1	8	82	0	0

Pool C

Saturday Wales v Portugal — **ITV1**
(Allianz Riviera, Nice)

Sunday Australia v Fiji — **ITV1**
(Stade Geoffroy Guichard, Saint-Étienne)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Australia	1	1	0	0	35	15	1	5
Wales	1	1	0	0	32	26	1	5
Fiji	1	0	0	1	26	32	2	2
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	15	35	0	0

Pool D

Saturday Samoa v Chile — **ITV4**
(Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux)

Sunday England v Japan — **ITV1**
(Allianz Riviera, Nice)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Japan	1	1	0	0	42	12	1	5
England	1	1	0	0	27	10	0	4
Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	1	0	0	1	10	27	0	0
Chile	1	0	0	1	12	42	0	0

And so, when the players came into England camp in June, Walters got to work on them, using lessons he had learnt from studying Bill Sweetenham, the former British Swimming performance director, and Tour de France cyclists to build bespoke programmes that would allow each player to peak twice during the World Cup.

"To get someone fitter you almost have to dig them into a hole first to allow them to recover, then come out stronger," Walters said.

"It is anything that gets them into the dark, where they get really uncomfortable, where they go, 'This is not nice.' When you experience that enough times and get hardened to it, anything they face then in games should be relatively, 'Oh, I can deal with this.'

"What we've done is put them into such a hole in pre-season that they'll only reap the rewards of that work at the World Cup.

"We saw the start of it on Saturday against Argentina. The fresher they get now the stronger they'll be."

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Tackles made by England in their stubborn 27-10 victory over Argentina, almost twice as many as their opponents made

England were criticised widely for their low-energy performances in the warm-up games, particularly after their defeat by Ireland in Dublin. Walters has now provided context to that performance. The team had played the equivalent of a Test match in training the previous Tuesday.

In other words, England knew they had to sacrifice the warm-up series to be ready for the World Cup. It meant holding their nerve while the flak was flying.

"Sweetenham made sure that the swimmers were tired going into the World Championships, which just preceded the Olympics," Walters said. "They got some medals but he knew if you could compete when you were tired and lacking energy, what were you going to be like when you were free of fatigue and energetic?

"The guys that go to the Tour de France, that's not the first time they've worked really hard. They've worked incredibly hard in the mountains. Were they unfit six weeks before? No, they were just under-recovered.

"What happens when you're fully recovered and your tank is full and you're full of juice — that's when you see the fittest versions of your team and squad. That is what we are getting to now. We looked leggy in the August Tests but I'm glad we did because if we didn't we wouldn't have done enough."

England's training programme took them to the ferocious heat of Verona for a week, where the sessions ended in players vomiting on the side of the pitch and losing three kilograms in weight.

"In the Ireland week, and you guys might think this is the most ridiculous thing to do, when you look at the GPS data we more or less played a game on the Tuesday before we played Ireland on the Saturday," Walters said.

"Do you get confidence from that? Yes. We lost [against Ireland], but we went to one of the hardest places to go to. It served as preparation going into Argentina and then going after Japan.

"People on the outside being critical, I get it. We didn't look energetic. But we have confidence in our planning and our programme, so that short-term pain should lead to something now when we head into the Japan game."

England play three pool games on successive weekends — Argentina, Japan and Chile — and then have a week off before they face Samoa. Walters already has plans for the players as England look ahead to the quarter-finals and a potential clash with Australia, Fiji or his native Wales. "It allows you to upload again at the right time, if you're able to, and reach a second peak," he said.

Walters took the England job because part of him had always wondered whether the Springboks would have prevailed in 2019 without him. With Saturday's victory over Argentina, his programme has delivered its first success. Japan this coming weekend will be a different challenge: speed over physicality with a high ball in play.

"What we've done is put them into such a hole in pre-season that they'll only reap the rewards of that work now," Walters said. "We saw the start of it on Saturday against Argentina. The fresher they get now the stronger they'll be."



England's Ford has benefited from this tournament ball, scoring a 49-metre drop-goal against Argentina, inset

Goldilocks conditions

Change to the way balls are prepared is one reason why kickers are enjoying themselves, writes **Will Kelleher**

One question emerged from the opening round of matches at the World Cup last weekend that had tongues wagging across France and beyond: why are the balls flying so far when kicked?

Whether it was George Ford's 49-metre drop-goal against Argentina, Dan Biggar's banana kick against Fiji, Freddie Steward's 22-to-22 clearance after catching a mark or wallops from Thomas Ramos and Antoine Dupont for France against New Zealand, kicks seemed to be travelling further than usual.

Fans and players alike have noticed the trend and statistics from Opta confirm that on average each kick is travelling 33.5 metres, nearly three metres more than in the Six Nations and almost 7½ metres further than in the recent southern hemisphere Rugby Championship.

So why is it happening? The consensus seems to be that the Indian summer temperatures in France, where matches have been played in 35C heat, are part of the reason.

As cyclists or swing bowlers in cricket know, there is an optimum, warm temperature that helps bodies and balls travel quicker. Too cold and the air is heavier, with its particles closer together; too warm and performance is adversely affected.

It seems that the French heatwave has hit the "Goldilocks Zone" — not

reveals fitness guru



MIKE EGERTON/PA

Average metres per kick from hand

In the main international competitions over past three years

Competition	Metres
2023 RWC	33.5
2023 Six Nations	30.7
2022 Six Nations	30.3
2021 Six Nations	29.6
2022 Rugby Championship	29.5
2021 Rugby Championship	28.8
2023 Rugby Championship	26.1

Borthwick turns to Kruis as he seeks to perfect lineout

CONTINUED FROM BACK

yesterday from England's training base in Le Touquet, northern France, rather than travel to Paris, and accepted that his challenge was an act of foul play and warranted a red card.

Tackles of that type, which make contact with the head, carry a six-week suspension. Curry received the full 50 per cent mitigation from the panel — chaired by Adam Casselden SC (Australia), who was joined by former players John Langford (Australia) and Jamie Corsi (Wales) — as he admitted his foul play, has a clean disciplinary record and apologised.

He will miss the Japan match on Sunday and the Chile game the Saturday after, on September 23, but will be free to face Samoa on October 7 when he completes World Rugby's coaching intervention programme, nicknamed "tackle school".

Players can complete that course at the World Cup. Curry will team up with the England defence coach Kevin Sinfield to do it. During the course he will have to demonstrate the correct tackling technique, film it several times, and send the clips to a World Rugby panel of experts for review.

Sinfield recently took Billy Vunipola, the No 8, through the course after he was sent off against Ireland in August. Vunipola received the same sanction as Curry — a three-game suspension, reduced to two — so he is now free to play after missing the final World Cup warm-up match against Fiji and the Argentina match in pool D of the World Cup last Saturday.

Richard Wigglesworth, the England attack coach, said the team will miss Curry. The Sale Sharks back-row forward was playing his first game for three months, having suffered an ankle injury in training, when he was sent off in Marseille.

"Tom Curry is a world-class player, he's proven that time and time again," Wigglesworth said. "It is really unfortunate what happened, but knowing Tom, the next time he plays for England he will have a big impact on both sides of the ball."

Meanwhile, Steve Borthwick, the head coach, has recruited his former team-mate, George Kruis, to help hone England's lineouts at the World Cup.

Kruis, 33, who played his 45th and final Test for England in 2020 before his retirement from the sport two years later, was at yesterday's training session at the team's base.

He was there on a flying visit to assist Borthwick, his old Saracens club-mate, with England's set piece, having also helped during the Six Nations, and will return later in the tournament.

Maro Itoje calls the lineout under Borthwick and Kruis was Itoje's lineout partner for much of the period of England dominance early on in the Eddie Jones era.

"George helps with the lineout," Wigglesworth, who played with Kruis at Saracens, said. "Him and Steve chat for hours and I really don't want to listen to those conversations. They have a proper lineout [discussion]. He helps the callers and the lineout menu that they get. All that detail that I don't need to know.

"It's great to have him because he has an affinity with so many of the lads.

"He's due to come back. I've seen enough of him now. It's nice to see him but he's got his big company to go and run. He'll be jetting in and out a bit but he's always speaking with Steve."

Kruis has shed a couple of stones since his retirement, much of which he has spent launching a cannabidiol oil business with former team-mate Dominic Day, which led to him being teased at the England camp.

"He's lost a lot of weight," Wigglesworth said. "He got a bit of stick this morning for his weight. He actually compared his body to mine, which considering he was 117kg when he played, was not the best compliment for him."

Vunipola has been largely training on his own, while suspended, with the head of strength and conditioning, Aled Walters.

"Unfortunately for Billy he was handed over to Aled, which is not a pleasant experience," Wigglesworth said, jokingly. "There's a group of lads who get extra conditioning, lads who maybe didn't get many minutes or didn't play. For Billy, that's him for the past few weeks. Aled has been working him hard and he's good to go."



Kruis has spent hours with Borthwick discussing ways to hone the set piece

and less grip – why balls are going faster and further

too hot, not too cold — of perfect conditions, which is aiding the flight of the ball.

One kicker at the World Cup told The Times that another reason he believes the balls are travelling further is that they are more "kicked in" than the versions used in the summer.

When balls are new, fresh out of the packet, they are easy to grip with prominent bobbles all over them. That makes them tacky to touch, and while that grip may mean they are easier to catch, they drag in the air more when they are passed and kicked, as their surface area is larger.

The more the ball is used, the more the grip starts to wear off, a bit like when the lacquer comes off a new cricket ball as it is bowled and hit by batsmen. Similarly when a rugby ball is "kicked in" — the manufacturer, Gilbert, "kicks in" balls before they are given to professional teams, using humans and a pendulum-like machine in its factories — it moves differently. The kicker added: "The [new] balls feel a lot thinner, with more grip on them, so they don't travel as much. But when they are more kicked in, with less grip, they travel further — especially with the heat."



Gilbert has supplied the balls since 1995

Gilbert, the manufacturer which has supplied balls for every World Cup since 1995, introduced the present version of its top-end ball used for Test matches around the world in 2022. Named the iNNOVO, it has what it calls a "duo valve" positioned in one seam, which it says assists with "the balance and rotation of the ball".

That valve is also used for the "smart" chip, which measures the flight, speed and spin of the ball, and the distance it travels, via GPS signals sent back and forth to masts in the ground. Those numbers are used as a broadcast tool to help inform and educate viewers.

Even though this World Cup ball has been around the Six Nations, Gallagher Premiership and Rugby Championship for a year, players and coaches do think it feels different.

"They never say they're different, but they are slightly different," Richard Wigglesworth, England's attack coach and kicking expert, said.

Ford, who kicked all of England's 27 points against Argentina on Saturday, including three drop-goals, added: "The ball is different to the balls we're playing with in the Premiership. They do seem to travel a lot faster and they're going a lot further."

Elliot Daly, who missed two long-range penalties, hitting one wide and one short of the posts in Marseille, joked that Ford had a new nickname — comparing him to a Springboks legend.

"Fordy's drop-goal from 50 metres out is still going," he joked. "He's turned into Frans Steyn for a minute, hasn't he?"

Steyn was famous for his long strikes — once hitting a drop-goal from 60 metres out when playing for Racing 92.

Daly added: "They do go. It's a bit of a warmer climate here. When you're kicking the Premiership balls at minus six degrees up in Newcastle it's a bit different."

It helped Ford, and England, that the Stade Vélodrome pitch is the shortest at the tournament — at 94 metres — when usually pitches are about 100 metres long from tryline to tryline. Wigglesworth also felt that the bowl-like, fairly enclosed stadium in Marseille kept the wind out and aided longer kicks.

"All the best kickers in the world are on show, so we've seen some guys hit it a long way," he said. "Big stadiums help for some reason: the lack of wind.

"Thomas Ramos and Antoine Dupont tend to hit the ball a mile, it's what they do. George Ford is as good a dead-ball punter as you'll see. It's probably not an in-depth reason but slight changes in balls and big stadiums help."

Sport

IAN LYALL/PROSPORTS/SHUTTERSTOCK



Bradford's 89th-minute equaliser spreads jubilation among another bumper Valley Parade crowd

Martin Samuel

We must treasure unique passion in English football

The voice of sport



There is a short clip on social media filmed at Bradford City last weekend. *Inside Matchday* takes supporters through Saturday's League Two game with Grimsby Town. You'll find it on X (formerly known as Twitter), with not a vast amount of views.

It begins with players walking into an empty Valley Parade — or the Northern Commercials Stadium, as it is less poetically known — in the sunshine. Someone in the editing suite has obviously dubbed a little hubbub on to the soundtrack, because the ground is deserted save for a few stewards.

By the time the players are next seen, however, coming off from their warm-up, the noisy enthusiasm is genuine. The stadium is filling up and looks good; the players high-five the little mascots congregating around the tunnel entrance and they could not appear more excited if they were meeting Lionel Messi.

By the next clip, it's a cacophony. The teams are out, the mascots wave eagerly to a packed stadium. Bradford are wearing a nod to their proud past, too, as a club that bullishly applied to join the Football League in 1903 with no players and having never played a game. This season's kit is a replica of their first: tight amber and claret hoops, white shorts. Fabulous.

Then the match. The noise is incredible. When Bradford score, the place erupts. Bare-chested punters on the pitch. Bare-chested kids dancing around the dugout area. What the clip doesn't show is that it's an 89th-minute equaliser. This has not been a flying start. Bradford have won two league matches, although they've also battled through to the third round of the League Cup. The result left them 16th, or 84th in the pyramid overall.

So who cares? Here's the thing: 18,879 people cared. In a recession, in a world in which citizens do not know if they will be able to sufficiently heat their houses this winter, 18,879 cared enough about an inconsistent Bradford City to turn up and see them play an equally fallible Grimsby Town. And it's not an anomaly because 17,177 were at the match with Colchester United and 16,736 saw them beat Crewe Alexandra. Last May, Bradford drew 22,576 for a League Two fixture with Leyton Orient, a record for the division.

There is life beyond Wrexham, that is the point. And nothing against Wrexham. What the owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney have done for that city and its football club is magnificent, but throughout the football pyramid there are clubs writing their own brave narratives in different ways.

Not that everyone at Bradford is destined for a happy end. Stefan Rupp, the owner since May 2016 when the club was a division higher, is pretty much an absentee. Mark Hughes, whose previous club jobs have all been in the Premier League, is still looking for this season's kick-start. Yet Rupp had a recent chance to sell, and resisted, and Hughes has been admirably prepared to place his reputation on the line in a league that would have most contemporaries running a mile. His appointment at least showed a club trying to think big.

So the fairytale isn't the results, or even hope on the horizon, it's that still they come. Hughes played in Germany, played in Spain. He knows there's nothing like it. "We should cherish this," he told me. "I've never regretted coming to Bradford for a minute. It's still a big club, still a big fanbase. And on Saturday afternoons, the emotions generated, the feelings it garners, they're exactly the same. I was out of football for three years. Getting that back was very important to me, and I found it here."

There are roughly 15,000 season-ticket holders at Bradford. They would have the fourth highest attendance in League One, the 18th in the Championship and the 17th in the Premier League, ahead of Brentford, Bournemouth and Luton Town. The equivalent to tier four in Italy is Serie D, made up of amateur regional leagues with ten teams promoted. Last season only one of those clubs, Catania, in Sicily, possessed a stadium that could have held Bradford's gate against Grimsby.

It is not dissimilar in Spain, where 40 teams spread across the equivalent of Leagues One and Two, boasting just two — Deportivo La Coruña and Malaga, both fallen on hard times — that could accommodate Bradford's crowd.

And, yes, Bradford are exceptional. The next biggest average gate in League Two is Notts County's 10,990.

Even so, it speaks of community and a football culture that remains the envy of the world. "Quite remarkable," Hughes says.

Bradford may dwell in comparative obscurity, but when they kick off against Harrogate Town at 3pm on Saturday, Valley Parade will not feel or sound like a League Two ground. And if Hughes can coax them to score, as that ball goes in, to 18,879 people, Bradford will once again be the biggest club in their world. We should treasure this.

● Possession statistics are arguably the most misleading in football. Where was the possession? Was it in areas that could hurt the opposition? Was it merely exchanging ineffectual passes at the back? Manchester United completed 199 passes in the first 45 minutes away to Arsenal that were all in their own half. Is that really a sign of dominance — or timidity? Roy Hodgson, in particular, can get very irritated by possession numbers, shorn of context.

A further case in point: Sunderland v Southampton, September 2. Possession: Sunderland 33 per cent, Southampton 67 per cent. Goals: Sunderland 5, Southampton 0. It's where you have it that matters.

Erratic Pope fades from England view

It has not been the best start to the season for Nick Pope, the Newcastle United goalkeeper. His form has been erratic and his absence from Gareth Southgate's England squad for the matches with Ukraine and Scotland must have stung. Jordan Pickford is firmly established as first choice and rightly so. But look at Southgate's back-ups. Aaron Ramsdale is coming under pressure from David Raya at Arsenal, with continued speculation that he may lose his first team-place. Meanwhile, Crystal Palace have spent £20 million bringing Dean Henderson in, from Manchester United, to challenge England's third choice Sam Johnstone. It's a lot of money for a reserve at a club that size. It wasn't so long ago that Pope was being advanced as the best goalkeeper in the country, but as with Jonjo Shelvey and Callum Wilson in recent years, the potential of Newcastle's England candidates is often overstated.

Flawed challenge

As a boxer, Francis Ngannou has a number of weaknesses — the main one being that he's never boxed. His sport is MMA, so taking on Tyson Fury in Riyadh on October 28 is not expected to present the greatest challenge for the WBC champion. Frank Warren, Fury's promoter, called him the "most entertaining heavyweight champion since Muhammad Ali" and contrived to keep a straight face while he said it, so, in that way, the hard work is already done.



Ngannou has made his name as an MMA fighter

● Modern refereeing is full of puzzling contradictions. Here's another. When Chelsea played Nottingham Forest recently, a frustrated Nicolas Jackson waved an imaginary card after being fouled by Ryan Yates, and was immediately booked by Tim Robinson. No debate, no second chances. Yet defenders are constantly given two fouls, and sometimes more, before a card is produced.

You see referees pointing to areas of the field. One there, another there, now this is your third — booked. What is so different, then, about imaginary cards, or even throwing the ball away? Fans hate players trying to get an opponent cautioned, or open shows of dissent, but it does seem rather inconsistent that the one offence receiving some ambiguous mental totting-up process is foul play.

BBC numbers don't add up for Bloom

Speaking with Tony Bloom this week — our conversation will appear in this weekend's edition — he was very animated when told that the local BBC correspondent had not been given the go-ahead to cover all of Brighton & Hove Albion's matches away in Europe this season. It is Brighton's first European campaign and Bloom, their owner, is rightly proud, but a trip to Athens for the meeting with AEK on November 30 is considered too rich.

Being a numbers man, Bloom had already calculated how many matches Brighton might play if they were to go all the way in every cup competition. "There could be 65 games this season and the BBC can boast they were at 64 of them," he said. "What's the point?"

When smaller clubs are successful, they notice these slights. Sir Alex Ferguson would keep a record of how many times the Glasgow-based correspondents of Scotland's newspapers made it north to watch his Aberdeen team.

Kenny Dalglish felt equally slighted on behalf of Blackburn Rovers when one famous name left the Ewood Park press box early to make it to London in time for a late-night TV show.

Smaller clubs are often the guinea pigs too. At half-time during Brighton's win over Newcastle United, Sky pulled Roberto De Zerbi, the Brighton head coach, for a swift chat. This appears to be the thin end of a much larger wedge, with broadcasters demanding half-time talks with managers and even in-game interviews after a player has been substituted. They haven't tried it with Jürgen Klopp, though. Haven't collared Pep Guardiola.

Bloom didn't mind but the results were unenlightening. It just seemed like a power play: look what we can do. Yes, very clever; but is it worth doing?

Miami firm pushes for full takeover of Everton

CONTINUED FROM BACK

would remain in the Premier League prompted 777 to back away and MSP to sign an exclusivity agreement instead.

The goverment is understood to have concerns about 777's suitability for ownership because of allegations of fraud and offering illegal loans that the company is facing in the US.

Moshiri has invested more than £750 million in the Merseyside club since becoming the majority shareholder in 2016, but Everton have been in freefall on the pitch, with transfer flops and managerial sackings characterising the tumultuous reign of the British-Iranian billionaire.

They survived relegation only on the final day of last season and are 18th in the new campaign, having picked up one point from their first four games.

Everton's underperformance has prompted fan protests against Moshiri, 68, and the club's hierarchy, with the chief executive Denise Barrett-Baxendale, the chief finance and strategy officer Grant Ingles, and the non-executive director Graeme Sharp, all resigning at the end of last season. The chairman, Bill Kenwright, has remained in position.

Moshiri has been seeking investment to help finish the club's £550 million stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock on the banks of the River Mersey and secured £100 million of funding from MSP despite being unable to progress with an agreement to sell 25 per cent of the club.



Moshiri revived talks with 777 last month

That was blocked by an existing lender, the Cheshire-based Rights and Media Funding, which was unhappy with the amount of money being put forward for a quarter of the club.

However, 777, which is being advised by Tifosy Capital & Advisory, is understood to be pursuing a full takeover, which would be subject to the Premier League's owners' and directors' test.

There has been criticism of 777 from Standard Liège fans, but its co-founder Josh Wander, who set up the company in 2015 with Steven Pasko, insisted in an interview with the Financial Times last month that they were intent on making a success of all their investments.

"We have a strong view that there's a new wave of commercialisation coming to football," Wander said. "[Football clubs] have done a horrible job of commercialising the product. It's so absurd to me that people say we're not serious when we bought [stakes in] seven clubs in the last 18 months. Is there anyone in the world that's been more serious about buying football clubs in history than Josh Wander?"

In the same interview, Wander also addressed his 2003 cocaine trafficking arrest that led to him being put on probation, describing it as a "stupid college thing" that has allowed "haters" to try to "destroy" him.

The Premier League would have to determine whether the offence was judged to be spent.

GETTY IMAGES



Wander may not pass the Premier League's owners' test after a 2003 cocaine arrest

777's other investments in football

SEVILLA (20th of 20 in La Liga, Spain)
777's first investment in football in 2018

GENOA (14th of 20 in Serie A, Italy)
Bought for about £130m in 2021

STANDARD LIEGE (14th of 16 in Belgian League)
Acquired for reported £47m in March 2022

RED STAR (1st of 18 in France's third division)
Bought small but historic club last year

HERTHA (17th of 18 in 2. Bundesliga, Germany)
Secured a majority stake in March

MELBOURNE VICTORY (Finished 11th of 12 in A-League 2022-23, Australia)
Bought a minority stake worth £15m last year

VASCO DA GAMA (18th of 20 in Brazil's Serie A)
Bought £109m stake in 2022, the biggest deal in Brazilian football history

Best Euros tickets will cost €2,000

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Uefa has launched a new category of seats for Euro 2024 with highly priced "prime" seats selling for €2,000 (£1,720) for the final in Berlin — double the amount of the most expensive tickets for the Euro 2020 final at Wembley.

The ticket strategy for the tournament in Germany will also have "Fan First" tickets — the cheapest category — sold for €30 for group matches and €95 for the final.

Uefa said that it expects about half of all the 2.7 million tickets to be Fan First, category one or wheelchair access tickets, with one million available for €60 or less.

Insiders told The Times that the strategy of charging premium prices for some seats meant other seats could be sold for much lower prices, with more seats in the cheaper categories.

The "prime" seats will cost €400 for a group match, rising to €900 for the semi-finals and €2,000 for the final at Berlin's 70,000-capacity Olympiastadion. They will be the seats closest to the centre of the pitch on either side of the stadium.

Hospitality packages start at €1,250 per head.

Category one tickets will cost €200 for group matches rising to €1,000 for the final. The cheapest tickets will be for the areas behind each goal.

The ticket application process opens on October 3, with a ballot for oversubscribed matches. All tickets will be electronic with no option to print at home.

Klopp is not available for Germany job, says agent

Jürgen Klopp will not become the new manager of the Germany national team, his agent confirmed last night. The Liverpool manager was on a list of possible candidates to replace Hansi Flick, who was sacked after Germany's 4-1 defeat by Japan in a friendly on Saturday.

However, speaking on German TV last night, Marc Kosicke, Klopp's agent, said: "Jürgen has a long-term contract with LFC and is not available for the national coaching position."

Why England should reject automatic place in 2028

German malaise acts as warning to tournament hosts that qualifying serves a vital purpose, says **James Gheerbrant**

It is not unheard of for big international teams to have some indifferent results in the months before hosting a tournament. Aimé Jacquet's France lost to Russia, drew with Morocco and scraped past Finland in the run-up to the 1998 World Cup. At one point in 2015, the year before they hosted the European Championship, Didier Deschamps's team had a run of three defeats in four games, against Brazil, Belgium and Albania. Germany lost to Slovakia and Turkey, under Jürgen Klinsmann, in the lead-up to the 2006 World Cup.

All three managers survived and went on to guide their teams to successful tournament runs. France won in 1998 and finished runners-up in 2016, while Germany came third in 2006. But there is a difference between sailing close to the wind and steering into the iceberg. After a terrible run of results, culminating in a 4-1 defeat by Japan, Hansi Flick's dismissal as Germany manager was inevitable, and leaves *Die Mannschaft* looking to make a new appointment nine months out from Euro 2024.

Here's a curious thing about Flick's tenure, though: his record in competitive matches was respectable. He won nine, drew five and lost two, with only one really bad result, the 2-1 defeat by Japan at the World Cup last year. But as the hosts of the forthcoming Euros, Germany are exempt from qualifying and so have spent the past few months engaged in a series of warm-up games, which have succeeded only in warming, to volcanic temperatures, the blood of German TV pundits and former players such as Lothar Matthäus.

Results and performances have been dreadful: this year, it's one win, against Peru; one draw, against Ukraine; and a cascade of increasingly catastrophic defeats, against Belgium, Poland, Colombia and Japan. Look at Germany's form in competitive games and non-competitive matches, and it's almost like looking at two different teams. Germany finally broke that streak with a 1-0 win over France last night but make no mistake: Flick's project was killed by friendly fire.

Three things seem to have happened. First, Flick got too experimental, switching from a 4-4-2 to 3-5-2 to 3-4-2-1 and 4-2-3-1 in the past six games alone, robbing his team of the rhythm they had built up in competitive matches. Second, the players didn't reproduce the same intensity with which they played in the Nations League and World Cup. And third, the random friendlies contributed to the deep apathy around the team, whose relationship with the German public is at an all-time low.

This is not a vintage group of Germany players, but nor is it a bad one, with the likes of Ilkay Gundogan, Antonio Rüdiger, Jamal Musiala, Joshua Kimmich, Marc-André ter Stegen, Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sané. It is a genuine pity to see how low they've fallen. And for the English FA, it should be something else: a warning sign. Because it seems all but certain that the next European Championship, in 2028, will be hosted by England and the other home nations, plus Ireland. Ordinarily, of course, the hosts are exempt from qualifying and get direct entry, but in this case, that appears to be somewhat up in the air as Uefa is reluctant to grant five automatic places.

It is possible that there will be no automatic places, or that two places could be granted, perhaps on the strength of the Fifa ranking — in which case England would almost certainly get one of them — but at this stage nothing has been decided.

Strange as it may seem, the FA should be hoping, and lobbying, for the no-automatic-place scenario. It is in England's best interests to enter qualifying as normal, which of course is what happened in the run-up to Euro 2020, when England were one of 11 host countries. Is it a foolish and unnecessary risk to give up that golden ticket? For a mid-ranking European nation, or even if we were talking about England and the higher bar of World Cup qualifying, I would probably say yes. But this is a 24-team Euros. If England can't qualify, they don't deserve to be there.

The FA should look at what has befallen Germany and run a mile. Euro 2028 could be a massive chance for England's men. The generation of Jude Bellingham, Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka, Phil Foden and Levi Colwill will be in their prime. There is no worse way to prepare than to put that team through a series of meaningless friendlies.

Hosting a major tournament is a great thing. The backing of home crowds should confer a valuable advantage. Yet since France's triumph at the World Cup in 1998, there have been six European Championships and six World Cups, and not one has been won by a host granted automatic entry (Italy hosted four games at Euro 2020, but qualified as normal).

Ordinarily, England would simply have to accept their exemption from qualifying and get on with it. But that they could be one of five hosts in 2028 may offer them a different option. They should not hesitate to take it.

Bellingham liberated to bolster

Henry Winter
Chief Football Writer, Hampden Park

Scotland *Maguire 67 (og)*	1
England *Foden 32, Bellingham 35, Kane 81*	3

Here was a thrilling, undeniable reminder that Jude Bellingham is central to England's fortunes in every sense. After all the nonsense of wasting Bellingham in a position tucked in on the crowded left against Ukraine on Saturday, Gareth Southgate, the England manager, liberated the Real Madrid playmaker to a role more in keeping with his No10 shirt, more in keeping with his ability to run the show and he duly delivered. After the prolific Harry Kane, there is now a strong case to argue that Bellingham is England's most important player.

What an influence he was here, involved in Phil Foden's silky opener for England, striking the second then providing the assist for Kane to kill off Scotland's second-half revival.

What a player he is already and he has only just turned 20. What credit he is to his family, his old coaches at Birmingham City and Borussia Dortmund, and what a joy he is now to Madrid and England fans. He has already scored five times in four La Liga games. He has already represented his country 26 times in less than three years. He has already featured in two tournaments.

Injuries permitting, and always mindful of the perils of overplaying and the unrelenting nature of the calendar, Bellingham could feature in nine tournaments by the age of 33.

In an era when players are going for £100 million, he looks a bargain at £88 million. He has to maintain this form but there are few better players in the world than Bellingham at the moment. There is a belief without arrogance to Bellingham, a work ethic and team-mindedness that accentuate further his impact. He's a fighter, too, standing up to Jack Hendry.

Nothing seems to faze Bellingham, certainly not a spiky, noisy occasion like the 116th meeting of these auld enemies. With Bellingham embedded at the heart of Southgate's 4-2-3-1 system, England also showed their collective resilience to deal with a difficult atmosphere and fired-up opponents.

A good night in Glasgow also demonstrated the quality that Southgate can draw on — Foden, Kane, Kyle Walker and Marcus Rashford all impressed here, alongside Bellingham — and also the quantity of that talent.

Southgate could bring Bukayo Saka on to give England renewed impetus down the right as Scotland threatened in the second half. The England manager could bring on Callum Wilson to maintain the pressure on Scotland's defence — how Steve Clarke, the Scotland manager, could do with a forward of Wilson's calibre.

Realistically, how many of Clarke's players would get in Southgate's XI, beyond Andrew Robertson at left back? France and Portugal will prove truer litmus tests of English ambition but this generation of English talent is truly exceptional and will travel hopefully to Germany for the European Championship next summer. They handled well the heat of this occasion.

This raucous collision was about the present and the future, and the development of two teams as they advance on Euro 2024, but it was inevitably and intensely about the past.

Auld acquaintance was never going to be forgotten, not with the swirl of the bagpipes, smoke of fireworks and big-screen images of Kenny Dalglish scoring at Hampden preceding kick-off. Scotland fans held up a mosaic celebrating "150 years of history, rivalry and passion".

In the first half, boos resounded for 32 minutes. *God Save the King* was sung by the England fans and booed by many of the Scottish. Bellingham caught Aaron Hickey and was booed. Walker accidentally tripped Kieran Tierney and was booed. Yet Scotland were being increasingly outplayed.

After all the frustration of seeing Rashford on the bench in Wroclaw, leaving England lacking pace and penetration down the left, England fans were lifted to watch him running time and again at Scotland's defence, as well as linking with Kieran Trippier to release Bellingham.

After all the strange comments from Southgate about Foden being best as a right winger, a player who loves being central, who invariably mentions it in public, appeared close to the penalty spot to show his quick feet and to give England the lead after 32 minutes.

Bellingham was inevitably involved, scheming in midfield, ushering Walker forward, soon bringing Foden into play. Foden's assured touch and awareness of team-mates' positions are two of the weapons in his extensive armoury and both were applied here as he deftly found Bellingham.

Four Scots tried to form a wall, but it was hardly of Hadrian's proportions. Bellingham threaded the ball to Rashford, who had darted into the area, staying just onside. England accelerated, Rashford guiding the ball right to Walker, who has rarely played with such confidence and attacking threat as this.

The Manchester City full back drove the ball in from right to left and it seemed destined to hurtle harmlessly wide until Foden, responding so elegantly and effectively, shifted his balance and steered the ball in. It was technique at high speed. Scotland's fans fell quiet.

Their team revived in the second half but they were outplayed again here, England doubling their lead within two minutes. Bellingham shredded the flower of Scotland, toying with their defence on the left, shaping to come back before backheeling the ball down the inside-left channel to the overlapping Trippier. He crossed towards Kane, Tierney got his legs in the wrong order, and Bellingham was clinical from 12 yards.

One of the most impressive contributions from a Scot had come from a young fan interviewed at half-time about what Clarke should be telling his players after they had been left stunned by two lightning strikes. "I would tell them not to be scared of them," the youngster declared.

And they weren't after the break. Harry Maguire came on for Crystal Palace's Marc Guéhi and his every touch was mocked by the Scotland fans, clearly very aware of his travails at Manchester United. Southgate's loyalty can be a strength but with Maguire it looks increasingly like a weakness. When Robertson angled the ball in from the right, the stretching Maguire turned it past Aaron Ramsdale.

Inevitably Bellingham was the catalyst for Kane's killer touch. With nine minutes remaining, Bellingham turned away from Ryan Christie, eluded Tierney and sent Kane down the inside-right channel.

With his right foot, the England captain controlled the ball effortlessly and with his left he placed it past Angus Gunn. England fans waved some departing locals on their way and sang about Kane and the other Harry. "Harry Maguire, he's winning 3-1," they directed mockingly at Maguire's tormentors among the Tartan Army.

The game finished with Maguire standing in front of the England fans, being serenaded, but Southgate has some serious thinking to do about United's bit-part defender. It was really the only quibble on an uplifting night raised even higher by Bellingham.

Scotland (3-4-2-1): A Gunn 7 — R Porteous 5, J Hendry 6, K Tierney 6 (S Armstrong 82min) — A Hickey 6 (N Patterson 89), B Gilmour 6 (L Dykes 59, 5) , C McGregor 6 (R Jack 89), A Robertson 5 — S McTominay 5, J McGinn 6 (L Ferguson 82) — C Adams 5 (R Christie 59, 6). **Booked** Hendry, Tierney.
England (4-2-3-1): A Ramsdale 6 — K Walker 7, L Dunk 7, M Guéhi 7 (H Maguire 45, 5), K Trippier 6 — K Phillips 6, D Rice 7 — P Foden 7 (B Saka 71), J Bellingham 9 (C Gallagher 84), M Rashford 6 (E Eze 71) — H Kane 7 (C Wilson 84).
Booked Phillips, Bellingham.
Referee D Massa (It). **Attendance** 51,000.



Wide boy

Foden touch map

Phil Foden stuck to his brief from England manager Southgate but drifted inside to good effect, including scoring a first-half goal

▲▲▲ Direction of play ▲▲▲

'Pundits are to blame for

CONTINUED FROM BACK

instead launched an attack on the "pundits and commentators" who he says have contributed to the Manchester United player becoming a figure of derision.

The travelling England supporters made a point of saluting Maguire, who was brought on at half-time because of an injury to the Crystal Palace centre back Marc Guéhi, at the end of the game and Southgate delivered a passionate response on the subject of how the 30-year-old, the world's most expensive defender, has had his reputation diminished.

"I mean from a Scotland fan's point of view I get it," Southgate, who saw goals from Phil Foden and the outstanding Jude Bellingham give England a commanding 2-0 first-half lead, said. "I have no absolutely no complaints about what they did. It is a consequence of ridiculous treatment of him for a long period of time, frankly.

"I think our fans recognised, 'OK, there might have been a bit of heat from our own supporters [in the past] but we are not going to have it from others getting into him.'

"But it is a joke. I have never known a player to be treated the way he is. Not from the Scottish fans, but by our own commentators, pundits, whatever it is.

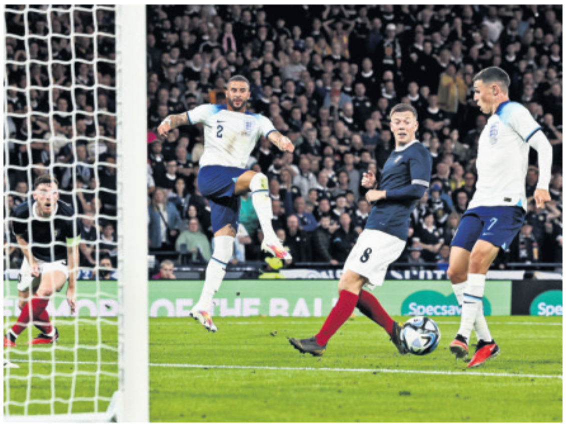
"They have created something that is beyond anything I have ever seen.

"He has been an absolute stalwart for us in the second most successful English team for decades. He has been a key part

England's belief

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER; JOE PRIOR/GETTY IMAGES; CARL RECINE/REUTERS







Foden touches in Walker's cross-shot for England's opener, top, before celebrating with Bellingham after the Real Madrid man hit their second, left. Kane restored a two-goal advantage late on, above, after Maguire had turned the ball into his own net to give the Scots hope, below



creating negativity around Maguire'

Jude just brilliant

Bellingham was the star of the show at Hampden Park last night, ranking highly in various categories:

Goals + assists 2	rank: 1st
Chances created 2	2nd=
Completed take-ons 4	1st
Touches in opposition box 5	1st
Passes in final third 19	2nd

of that. I have talked about the importance of our senior players and he has been crucial among that. Every time he goes on the field, the resilience he shows is incredible.

"He is a top player and we are all with him. Our fans were brilliant with him tonight. I feel fairly strongly about it, yes."

Maguire turned down a move to West Ham United in the summer and has lacked minutes for Manchester United this season as his club manager, Erik ten Hag, continues to pick others ahead of him. However, Southgate described the own goal that came when Maguire diverted a cross from Andrew Robertson, the Scotland captain, past Aaron Ramsdale, the goalkeeper, as "just unfortunate" and the extent of his backing indicates that the centre half will remain at the forefront of his plans.

Kane restored the two-goal advantage when he controlled Bellingham's pass and dispatched a clinical finish with nine minutes remaining.

Bellingham's display came from a No10 role as England's formation was tweaked to 4-2-3-1 and again highlighted his talent.

"He was excellent," Southgate said. "We thought that position might cause a problem; we knew we needed athleticism there to press Scotland because their midfielders can dictate games if you allow them.

"He doesn't have a point to prove to us, we know he is a really good player. Saturday [against Ukraine] was not his best game, but we weren't at the level we wanted to be and we knew he has a fantastic personality to come back from that.

"Overall, I was really pleased with the performance. We played exceptionally well and were able to nullify a lot of the threats that Scotland pose."

Reality check for Scots as old foes gatecrash another Hampden party

Michael Grant

Scottish Football Correspondent



The biggest loss at Hampden Park was always going to be suffered by those street traders who unwisely figured there might be a market for half-and-half Scotland-England scarves. Let's assume the bins of Glasgow's south side are already full to overflowing. The vendors were not the only ones who took a hit before the night was out. Scotland were brought down too. But only temporarily and they will feel that they were punctured here but will soon heal and take off again.

The prospect of a perfect night — beating England and simultaneously qualifying for Euro 2024 — turned to ashes and brought them nothing. Norway did not oblige by drawing with Georgia in group A, which was the result that would have sent Scotland to the finals, and England yet again had the temerity to accept an invitation to a Hampden party and then take nearly all the fun out of it.

0
Despite getting on the scoresheet — through Maguire's own goal — Scotland did not manage a shot on target

At the SFA's 100th anniversary in 1973, England came north and won 5-0. Here, to mark 150 years since this ancient fixture was first held, the Tartan Army briefly felt a chill about the prospect of it happening again when Phil Foden and the exquisite Jude Bellingham scored in the space of four first-half minutes.

Steve Clarke gets a lot of things right and the Scotland manager called this one correctly too. England would teach him and his players a lesson, he had said, meaning the fixture would be invaluable ahead of their next equally challenging qualifier against Spain in Seville next month.

France also await in a friendly in Lille a few days later. This is the sort of elite company Scotland want to keep and that includes being at the Euro 2024 finals next summer and as a League A side in the next Nations League (above League B England, although such a ranking was made to look silly). If this was a painful schooling then Clarke will argue that Scotland will recover and grow from it.

England took Scotland's noisy, raucous, hostile fortress. Hampden had enjoyed nine wins out of ten games since the last European Championship. Spain and Denmark amounted to high-calibre scalps in that run but England showed themselves to be at another level. Gareth Southgate had his side ready for the intensity and energy they would face in Glasgow. Scotland had dominated recent home games from the start. Not this time.

Spain had been unable to impose themselves on Hampden in March but England quickly did so, drawing some of the sting out of the atmosphere. They were muscular and assured. They did not force saves from Angus Gunn in the first half-hour although his concentration had to be sharp to race out and eliminate the danger when England played it over the top to quick runners darting beyond Scotland's high line. The opening goal was just too precise, too quick, too joined-up for Scotland to deal with. It was the first goal they had conceded from open play after five qualifiers in which the defence had been pierced only by an Erling Haaland penalty.

It was a tough night for Scotland's midfield anchors, Callum McGregor and Billy Gilmour. They were often close to Bellingham but he was classy, intelligent and elusive. When Foden tried to thread an early ball to Bellingham, Gilmour read it and his interception began a Scotland move. But there was not enough of that. There never could be when England's passing and movement was so quick and asked so many questions.

Bellingham, Foden and Marcus Rashford swept crisp balls around, constantly working Scotland in a trying first half. Gilmour tried to block Bellingham at Foden's opener but the England man calmly laid it off to Rashford like a surgeon handing the scalpel to a colleague. Bellingham's goal was presented to him by Andrew Robertson's brainfart, an example of what happens when you dither over what option to take and choose the worst one; he knocked it straight to the opposition's emerging star.

Scotland were hesitant in the first half and took too long to land an attempt on goal. Two sets of fans constantly traded insults and the Tartan Army did manage some fun on their bleak evening, although it was cruel.

They began a long spell of ironic cheering every time Harry Maguire got through an involvement without some sort of calamity. They cheered loudest of all when a calamity duly came, Maguire diverting a Robertson cross into his net to ignite a surge of pressure.

Gilmour was taken off after an hour, unable to make the impression that he had against the England midfield in the goalless Euro 2020 draw at Wembley. No one in blue did. England had too much. For the third, Bellingham set up Harry Kane. By then the gleeful 2,900-strong England support was laying it on thick. Those Hampden street vendors should have sold earplugs instead.



Gilmour had his hands full against Bellingham

Sport

Archer back in action

Fast bowler could go to World Cup after return to training

Cricket, page 54



SIMON STACPOOLE/OFFSIDE/GETTY IMAGES



Southgate: Maguire's treatment is a joke

Manager defends under-fire centre back after own goal as England win in Glasgow

Scotland	1
England	3

Paul Joyce

Gareth Southgate dismissed the treatment of Harry Maguire as a "joke" as he rounded on the England defender's tormentors after last night's 3-1 friendly victory over Scotland.

Maguire was ridiculed by the home fans every time he touched the ball as a second-half substitute and scored an own goal as Scotland briefly threatened a comeback before Harry Kane secured an eye-catching win.

The England manager said that he had "no complaints" about the booing from the Scotland fans and

Continued on page 60

Maguire has remained an England regular despite falling out of favour at his club — though last night he scored a 67th-minute own goal after coming on at half-time

Curry banned for two games

Will Kelleher Deputy Rugby Correspondent, Le Touquet

Tom Curry will miss England's next two World Cup pool matches after he was banned for his dangerous tackle against Argentina.

The England flanker, 25, will undertake "tackle school" to avoid missing the final group match against Samoa. Curry became the fourth England player to be shown a red card in six Tests — and the first at a World Cup — when he was sent off three minutes into the Argentina match in Marseille on Saturday.

He hit the Pumas full back, Juan Cruz Mallía, in the head as the Argentinian landed having fielded a kick, and was initially shown a yellow card, but it was upgraded to red using the "bunker" review system. Curry attended his disciplinary panel hearing virtually

Continued on page 57

US firm wants to buy Everton

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

The Everton owner, Farhad Moshiri, is in advanced talks with American investment firm 777 Partners over the sale of the club.

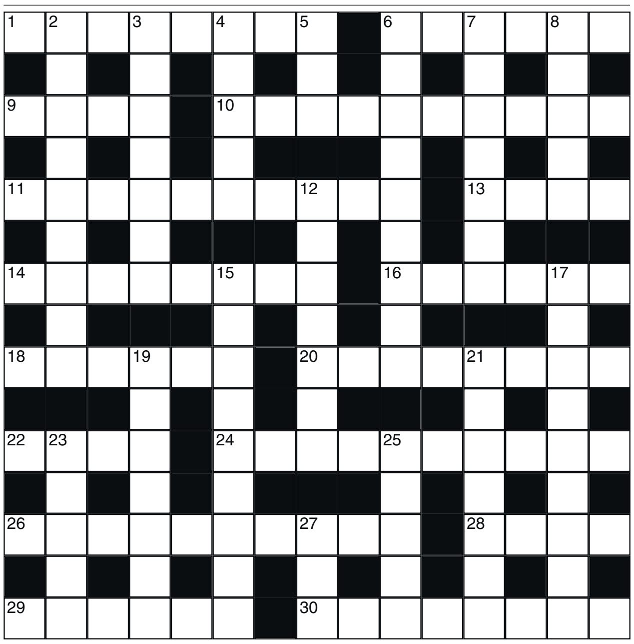
Moshiri resurrected discussions with the Miami-based company last month after the collapse of a proposed deal with MSP Sports Capital. However, while those discussions were for only a 25 per cent stake, 777 wants a full takeover.

The interest in Everton from 777, which has been building a stable of football clubs across Europe including Sevilla, Hertha Berlin, Genoa and Standard Liège, along with Vasco da Gama in Brazil, is longstanding.

A deal was progressing in May but the uncertainty over whether Everton

Continued on page 59

Times Crossword 28,707



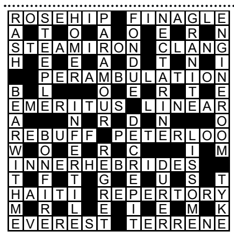
ACROSS

1 Not worried about heartless whistleblower (8)
6 A girl finally dated man in recess (6)
9 Ken's withdrawn from participant in primacy dispute — that's smart (4)
10 Bishop is so moved, along with lady I converted (10)
11 Wrong kind of surgeon for person — confused vein with artery (10)
13 Playwright making wise statement about what his heroine would keep missing (4)
14 State carriage (8)
16 As result, down is freezing? Just the opposite (6)
18 Raptor circles victim (6)
20 Name a holidaymaker lacking nothing who barely enjoys the open air? (8)
22 Some seabirds returning, or just one (4)
24 In general, it must establish definitive check (6,4)
26 Financier making statement that's true about Turkey or Thailand (10)
28 One's holding first pair of birds, or just one (4)
29 Partly switching sides is of little consequence (6)
30 Large oak tree I destroyed, dislodging a small bird (8)

DOWN

2 A line in article jerks put together for sport (9)
3 Retrieval of property — that could be the case (7)
4 Mostly communicate with one — none is any longer in specific circle (5)
5 For cameraman, between one minute and the next is a long time (3)
6 Unspecified relative putting in effort as paper's adviser (5,4)
7 Framework produced by church covering aid, mostly (7)
8 Revolutionary kind of dwelling (5)
12 Versus Arsenal, initially gets extra time (7)
15 Pinafore was in this combination of blues (5,4)
17 Controlling awful bosses I have (9)
19 Catalogue once more includes a non-abstract artist (7)
21 Have second thoughts about weak king (7)
23 Stop following bear? Not really (5)
25 Unqualified, so to speak (5)
27 Bad opening for my statement of intent (3)

Yesterday's solution 28,706



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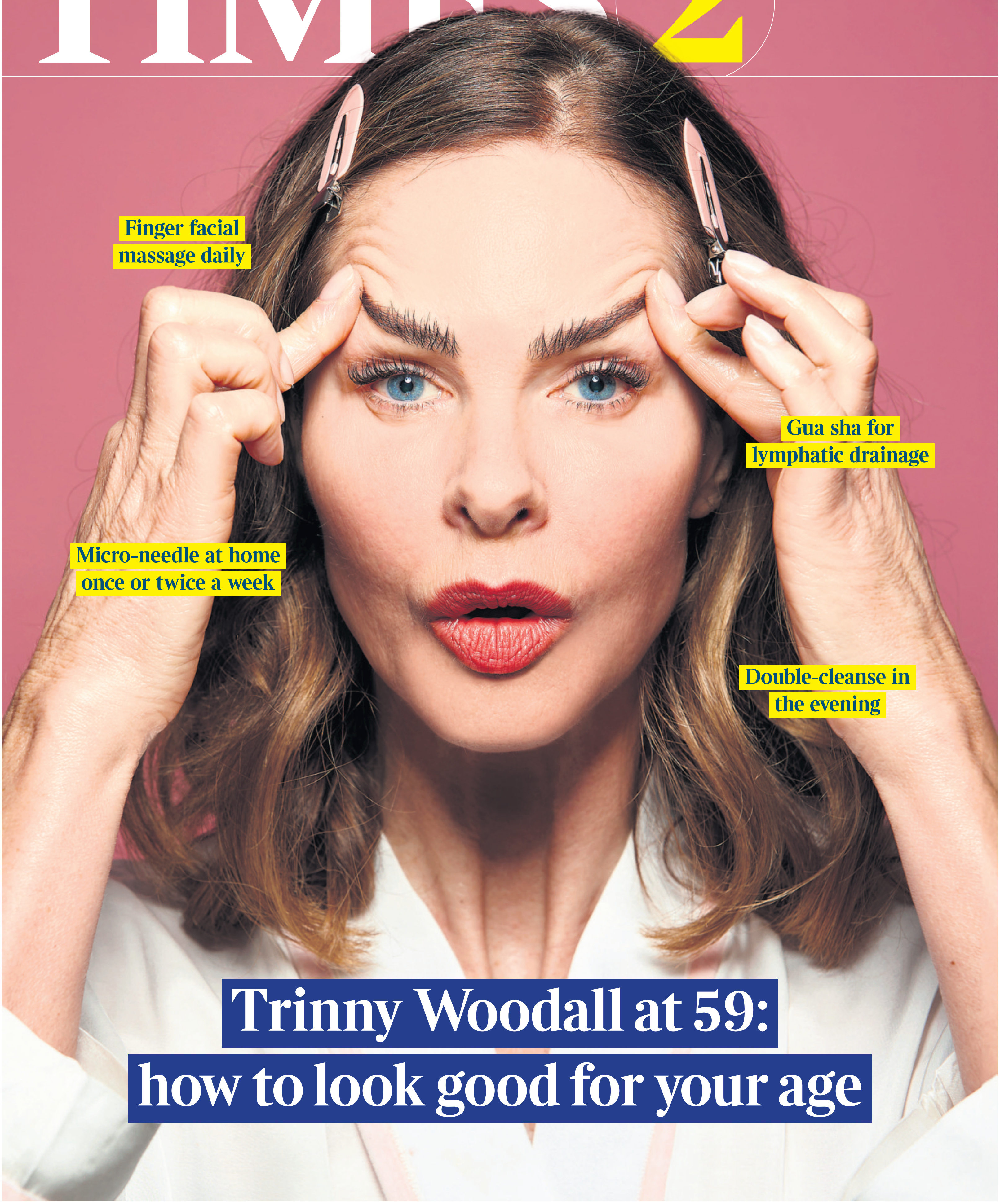


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September 13 | **2023**



Finger facial massage daily

Gua sha for lymphatic drainage

Micro-needle at home once or twice a week

Double-cleanse in the evening

Trinny Woodall at 59: how to look good for your age

Do you suffer from ‘time blindness’ — or being late, as we used to call it?

Carol Midgley



Are you “time blind”, reader? No, I had no clue either, but evidently it means you are “habitually late for things”, which I just used to call “rude” and “quite selfish”, so I feel pretty stupid now.

A young woman recently went “viral” online, complaining that she was ridiculed for her time blindness having asked in an interview what “accommodations” there were for people who “struggle with lateness”. One commentator replied that the accommodations were called “clocks”. Another said: “I bet the time blindness goes away when it’s time to clock off.” I sniggered at that but then I am quite a mean person.

The woman said time blindness is related to her ADHD, which may be true, and if so it’s not due to self-indulgence or idleness at all. Which is what you were thinking, madam. And you, sir. Oh yes you were. So was I. For I am a punctuality bore. I am pathologically “on time”, partly because in this job daily deadlines are non-negotiable but mostly because it feels pig-ignorant not to be. You may as well wear one of those T-shirts reading “Sorry I’m late. I didn’t want to come”. Mobile phones are the perpetual latecomer’s accomplice, rendering time elastic and your agreed meeting time merely a vague opening bid. So you sit alone in a bar while it pings: “Be there in ten!” Then, just as you’re about to leave 15 minutes later: “Sorry, make that 25.” Oscar Wilde was wrong to say “punctuality is the thief of time”. Lateness is. Of mine.

But then I mustn’t judge, because I have other types of “blindnesses” that I’m in favour of making a recognised condition for which I have to take no responsibility. “Bin blindness”, for instance, which causes me not to notice that my slow-close kitchen bin is so full the lid cannot slow-close, yet I keep stuffing more rubbish in until my husband says, “Oh, for f***’s sake,” and empties it himself. Can I help my condition?

I’d also like a diagnosis for “untidy car that permanently stinks of wet dog blindness”, which, sadly, seems to



be incurable given the stench of my Qashqai for the past decade. Ditto “the TV remote needs new batteries no matter how often you keep pressing the buttons as if they’ll magically spring to life blindness”. Changing lightbulbs. Emptying the dishwasher, the most tedious job known to man. Yes, I did write “man”, because, again, I usually tough it out until he does it. Hello? It’s my *affliction*, thank you. And he has plenty of his own, such as being 100 per cent blind to his own clothes needing to be taken off the line. I once left his jeans there as a punishing experiment to see for how long he would walk past them. Three weeks, readers, as I recall.

I pray I never get “loud eating is repulsive blindness” like every other train commuter in Britain. But these could be exciting times for wives who can now claim to suffer from “time for monthly conjugal duty blindness”. Or lechers suffering from “women don’t like it when men’s eyes are permanently trained on their breasts not their face blindness”. Or “no one likes it when someone sends them an unsolicited dick pic blindness”. To mix two metaphors, it’s the era’s get-out-of-jail-free gravy train. Although if you’re time blind you’ll obviously miss it.

Thank you, mile-high clubbers

A couple were met by police off an easyJet plane after a crew member opened the lavatory door to reveal them mid-coitus. Unless she was bent over the sink looking for a contact lens and he was simply being helpful. Either way, other passengers cheered, probably because they could finally void their bladders.

If they were having sex on that flight from Luton, we should thank them. Why? Because not long ago a couple were filmed having intercourse in their actual seats en route to Mexico. Appalling. Although I do envy their agility in a confined space.

Anyway: at least the other couple made the effort to do it privately. Unlike Kanye West, who was recently filmed on a water taxi in Venice with his bare buttocks exposed and his “wife” Bianca Censori with “her head in his lap”. She could have just felt seasick, of course. We mustn’t rush to judgment. But the boat company sure did, banning them for life. I suppose that’s the downside of having your own private jet like West. If you want to show off by having sex in the lavatory, there’s no one to see it. Deflating.

I regret my pet insurance

Insuring dogs and cats costs more than insuring your home, research finds. The average annual home and contents premium is £214, while cover for a dog is £294. Tell me about it. I’ve just checked and I pay £310 a year for my young mixed-breed dog and £200.76 for my rather fat cat. The other, younger cat died this year and I used to insure her too — £140 per annum.

I’ve never claimed a penny for any of them. Am I actually insane? I’d love to do the intelligent thing and cancel, then “self-insure”, stashing the money saved in a jar for if the worst happens and having a facelift — sorry — holiday if not. After all the years I insured my late labrador I’d be minted now.

But I just know that the moment I pull out, sod’s law will mean that one of them gets hurt and needs surgery costing gazillions. I can’t do it to them. Or, rather, me. And this, children, is how insurers get filthy rich.

After the quake:

Vanessa Branson’s riad in Marrakesh is an A-lister’s paradise. But she and her brother Richard’s biggest concern, she tells Lisa Brinkworth, is for the locals

As she watched the CCTV footage of the earthquake striking her hotel in Marrakesh, Vanessa Branson was shocked. “It was a lovely evening, then suddenly there’s this tremendous noise like an express train coming at you from underground,” the 64-year-old entrepreneur says. “Bottles were flying off the bar, food was flying. It looked terrifying. Our pool turned into the Atlantic Ocean, with all these choppy waves, and was left half-emptied.”

Her son Louis, 31, the restaurant and bar manager at El Fenn, escorted everyone out before the building was checked. Staff members contacted loved ones. Although it “swayed”, the riad withstood the tremors. Older buildings in the city were profoundly affected but the Koutubia, the city’s largest mosque, is still standing.

“We have a brilliant view of it. As the spiritual centre of Marrakesh, it is doing a grand job of showing that the country is upright and resilient.”

In fact, the Medina is already tidied up and open for business, she says.

Branson’s famous brother, Richard, also owns a hotel in the region. After Vanessa bought El Fenn, he purchased Kasbah Tamadot, near the village of Asni in the High Atlas Mountains. In the aftermath of the earthquake it was closed to be assessed for damage.

Vanessa didn’t witness the disaster first hand. She was at her Bayswater home when the magnitude 6.8 quake struck Morocco on Friday night, its epicentre 45 miles from Marrakesh. She flew to the city the next morning with her eldest son, Noah, 35. “I knew I had to be there immediately — I’m so glad I’m here.”

When I talk to her on the phone, she has just completed a morning swim in the already refilled pool and is preparing to depart for the Carrefour supermarket close to the Medina to buy blankets and medicines to take to the worst-affected villages. I can hear emergency sirens in the background.

Branson describes an “outpouring of support from Moroccans”, gathering supplies in warehouses ready to be distributed to those in need. “No one is able to get through to help as the roads are inaccessible so we’re going to take provisions up there ourselves.”

One of her Moroccan staff, Hussain Ait Oufkir Lhoussainep, a Berber hailing from the Ourika Valley, has located a track up to the villages. “We’re going to ram three Jeeps to the rafters with supplies,” she says. Branson wants to check up on the families in the Atlas Mountains, whom her mother, Eve, supported in the last years of her life. The Eve Branson Foundation (EBF) was founded in the late 1990s when her mother set up a craft house to teach girls skills in the Berber village of Tansghart.



“I don’t want to give the impression that we’re white saviours coming in,” Branson says. “It’s amazing that during this current crisis we can use Mum’s foundation as a conduit to help people get donations. It is a great legacy.”

The last time Branson took Eve to the Atlas villages was in March 2020, a year before she died, by which time her 94-year-old mother was already frail. “I knew it would be the last time Mum would be there with her ‘girls’. It was an amazing thing to witness.”

Branson and her children certainly share her mother’s passion for the region: Ivo, 28, for instance, has planted thousands of trees in the area through his business, Sapling Spirits, while Florence, 33, runs artist residencies in the city — Vanessa co-founded the Marrakech Biennale arts festival in 2004.

“I defy anyone not to be in awe of the mountain culture,” she says. “The people up there are remarkable. I don’t want to be too girly but that solidarity with women was a powerful thing.” It wasn’t just women Eve helped. She also ran apprenticeships for boys and young men, and a carpentry shop.

Branson hopes to check on it and the study centre. “I’ll know better by tonight what’s standing.” She wants to meet up with Fatima Gouansa, the vice-president of EBF, and her team. “We know they’ve all survived but so many people have died.” Overwhelmed with emotion, she breaks down.

Branson later calls me from her Jeep to tell me that the supermarket has run out of tents, but that they’d still got “our hands on a load”, that Louis is on his way to a different village, and that she expects Richard to join them.

The founder of Virgin later contacts me to say he is devastated by the news of the earthquake but that “it was unsurprising and heartening to hear that our teams instantly stepped in to deliver emergency supplies to local villages, despite many losing their homes themselves”.

my Morocco mission

LEILA ALAOUI



Vanessa refuses to contemplate the possibility of aftershocks, but exclaims at a huge crack she spots in the mountainside and holes in the road. Her gutsy determination reminds me of her mother, whom I met in 2015. Once, Eve was so frustrated by red tape preventing her from taking clothes to the Berber communities that she drove them there herself. She was 90.

"This is all making me feel very connected to her," Branson agrees. "It was her life's mission to get things going in the mountains. She became the universal granny there."

The Jeep has reached an impasse on the road. She leaves the vehicle to hike to a village, at which point our phone connection is lost.

When Branson contacts me later, not all the news she relates is bad. She located Gouansa ("we cracked a hard-boiled egg together for lunch; she is in a state of shock"); EBF's weaving workshop has been seriously damaged but the woodwork centre was largely untouched. Most importantly, she says, "we are utterly relieved that all of the girls and boys supported by the foundation are accounted for… although a lot have lost their homes. Some of the older ladies were so grateful just to be here that they were roaring with laughter at stories they were telling each other."

She witnessed a rescue operation in full gear. "Big diggers were going in by the time we left and the army was up there." Every ten minutes or so an ambulance passed them, which, she chooses to believe, meant "that people must still be alive, being pulled out of the rubble". Arriving at Asni, they found a tent city. "Any building built in the last 20 years survived. Sadly it was the traditional Berber houses made with stone, mud and rafters that collapsed. Those whose houses are still standing have left them for fear of collapse. People are sitting on the roadside, groups of women and children under the trees."

She's optimistic that Richard will bring fresh supplies. "He's brilliant at long-term support.

"We have heard so many miracle stories of people going back to their houses and seeing fallen debris where their pillow was or leaving their houses and seconds later chimneys falling down where they had just walked.

"Everyone wants to talk about the moment the quake hit — it is like group therapy. They are talking out their trauma."

Back at the hotel, the family's rescue dog, Bagheera, has resurfaced after disappearing during the earthquake. "He has become the focus of hope."

El Fenn has welcomed a host of A-list guests, from the former US president Jimmy Carter to the basketball star Michael Jordan; it was where Madonna held her 60th birthday party. This weekend, a huge wedding is planned for the daughter of Branson's American business partner. "I said, 'You must go ahead with it.' We're going to make it a fundraiser, which will be a boost for everyone."

globalgiving.org/projects/morocco-earthquake-relief-fund-evebransonfoundation





Vanessa Branson, and above left, in a village in the Atlas Mountains. Below: her hotel El Fenn; Richard Branson

I was called a 'stupid girl'. The insult stayed with me

As an accountant is made to pay up for using the sexist slur, Claire Cohen says it's all too common

I don't know about you, but I've been called many things at work in my time — some less flattering than others. Naturally, there have been many accolades and words of praise showered upon me which, conveniently, I can't seem to recall at this precise moment. But that's not what stays with you, is it?

What has remained lodged inside my brain are two words that were shouted down the phone at me by a much older, powerful man. It was over in a second, but his insult was so demeaning that it can still make the heat rise in my face over a decade and a half later. I even mentioned it in my wedding speech five years ago.

"Stupid girl."

It might seem throwaway, but that tiny phrase has power — as David Forge discovered this week. The Maidstone accountant has been ordered to pay more than £15,000 in legal costs and excluded from the Institute of Chartered Accountants for calling a female director that very same thing, as part of a series of "sexist, aggressive and offensive" messages. You're telling me…

At the time I was in my early twenties and working as a very junior editor on a national newspaper. He was one of Britain's best-known journalists and broadcasters. A man both admired and revered, whose face had been beamed into my childhood home and whose voice was instantly recognisable.

Now that voice was on the other end of the phone telling me that I was a "stupid girl".

My crime? An email containing research for an article he was writing — but was, naturally, far too important to do the groundwork for himself — hadn't landed in his inbox. I had sent it. Three times. I had the receipts to prove it and gently tried to say as much, offering to resend it via a different platform, given that ours was clearly experiencing a problem.

He didn't want to know — which, for a man known for his attack-dog interrogations and uncompromising pursuit of the truth, felt just a little bit off-brand. Far easier to lash out at a young woman who you know full well won't feel able to answer back. I hope it made him feel big, because it made me feel the size of a Borrower. Belittled and insignificant.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not here for sympathy … I think the statute of limitations has expired on that one. Besides, after two decades in journalism, my skin has been thickened by lots of little moments — such as being humiliated by a male boss who called me "a show pony" simply because I'd dared to wear a peach-coloured miniskirt to the office.

Not nice, but whatever. "Stupid girl", though, is different. It's loaded with sexism; a phrase from an unenlightened era when women were seen as less competent than men simply because of their gender (and, of course, our tiny lady brains). It speaks to a time when your male colleague might slap you on the backside in an attempt to put you in your place. It is designed to degrade, and it works. Remember when Jeremy Corbyn seemed to mouth "stupid woman" at Theresa May during PMQs in 2018? I'm willing to bet that she does.

The disciplinary hearing against Forge was right: it is usually part of a pattern. That same famous broadcaster suggested that another woman I worked with, who was pregnant at the time, should have an abortion so as not to pass on her incompetence with the English language to her unborn child. Had that leaked out, I have no doubt it would have made headlines.

> I was in my early twenties. He was a well-known broadcaster

But back then we were encouraged to laugh about it. And we did, partly because there was no one to report it to anyway, and partly in the hopes that men like this were a dying breed. Clearly I was a stupid girl for believing that.



Claire Cohen

fashion

First, wash your face — twice: Trinny's tips for ageless beauty



The world's best make-up can't hide skin that isn't cared for. I've learnt what really works, says Trinny Woodall in this extract from her new book

Your skin will go through changes as you age and you have to adapt to what your skin is dealing with at that time. From the age of 13 to 30 I had chronic cystic acne that could only be improved by Roaccutane (a prescription drug). In my early forties, I had to adapt as I experienced hyperpigmentation in pregnancy, and then again in my mid-forties when the acne returned during the early stages of my menopause.

Yes, there are some things that no product can help you with — for example, nothing that comes in a jar or a tube will fix deep frown lines. But, crucially, no amount of tweakments will give you fresh, healthy-looking skin if you are not cleansing, exfoliating and moisturising consistently and correctly. Nor will the best make-up in the world hide skin that isn't cared for.

The essentials

A cleanser
I recommend a balm cleanser to help melt away the make-up and dirt from your skin. You can invest in a few to cover specific concerns, or use the same one. In the evening you must always cleanse your skin twice.

An exfoliating acid
These come in the form of AHAs, BHAs and PHAs. They aid in removing the dead skin cells that make your skin look dull and feel dry.

Vitamin C serum
This is an essential part of any good morning routine.

A retinoid serum
This is an essential part of any good evening routine.

Moisturiser
Make sure you find a weight of moisturiser for your skin type: oily, dry, normal or combination.

SPF 30 or 50
No matter the weather or your age, you must wear an SPF of at least 30, but ideally 50, every day. This will make a huge difference to how your skin will age, as a good proportion of skin ageing is down to sun damage.

> Micellar water will get off top level make-up, but all the day's toxins are still on your skin

Four beauty products that I do not think are worth your time

Micellar water
If you are somewhere you can't properly cleanse, micellar water will get off some of that top level of make-up, but all of the rest of the day's toxins and SPF are still sitting there on your skin. Sure, you can see lots of make-up on the cotton pad, but it's not giving you anywhere near the deep cleanse you need.

Facial wipe
Another "in emergencies only" product. Not only will facial wipes smear a lot of the dirt across your face, removing only a small amount of it, they are bad for the environment.

Collagen creams
Collagen molecules are very large. They will not make it through your skin's barrier cells. We can use peptides and vitamin C to support the production of collagen and we can take collagen in the form of supplements. But a cream or serum is not going to be effective.

Pore strips
I know, the idea of clearing out your pores in one fell swoop is enticing. But this is where short-term satisfaction comes at the expense of long-term results. Most peel-off pore masks and extraction tools are gimmicks and, at worst, can cause damage.

Morning routine

I am asked a lot about what a skincare routine should consist of. So here is a basic routine to get you started.

Stage 1: Cleanse
A single cleanse is enough as your skin hasn't been exposed to all the nasty things that will be thrown its way in the course of a day. If your skin is normal to dry, I would suggest a balm cleanser which you can massage into your skin and take off with a hot cloth. If you're normal to oily, go for a gel cleanser with a gentle acid.

Stage 2: PHA Exfoliate
This is not a step for everyone, but you can use a PHA in the morning. This is far more effective than using a toner here.

Stage 3: Vitamin C Serum
A vitamin C serum in the morning is what the skin needs to help fight the damage that is inflicted during the day.

Stage 4: Moisturiser
Many people think moisturiser is the most important element of their routine. Find a moisturiser that suits your skin type. Moisturisers will help protect your skin barrier and keep your skin feeling hydrated and moisturised. Choose one that absorbs well so that your skin doesn't feel dry.

Stage 5: SPF 30 or 50
SPF has come a long way, there are so many great formulations that are SPF 30 or 50 and still feel weightless. Make sure you choose an SPF that is broad spectrum with UVA (ageing) and UVB (burning) protection and ideally with blue light protection (from screen damage). You need to use a bigger amount than your moisturiser for the SPF to work. It's the equivalent of ¼ of a teaspoon for your face, and ½ a teaspoon for your face and neck.

Evening routine

Stage 1: Double cleanse
Balm cleansers are oil-based and oil attracts oil, so begin with a balm cleanser to melt away the day's make-up and grime. Wipe away with a face or washcloth and warm water and follow up with a gel cleanser to get rid of any residual cleanser and get into the pores. I promise the double cleanse takes so little effort and is absolutely worth it. You can use the same product twice, if you prefer. This might sound obvious, but do not wash your face in water that is too hot. You will stress your skin and likely dry it out.

Stage 2: Exfoliate for skin type
Exfoliation used to mean using a granular exfoliant, which only dealt with the very top layer of the skin. But here I'm talking about liquid exfoliant that stays on and it should be based on what is best for your skin type. This will clear out any dead skin cells and is essential for brightening your complexion. It also preps your skin for the products to follow.

Stage 3: Serum for skin concern
Now look at retinoids and how you can add them to your routine. Select one that is specific to your skin issues.

COVER AND BELOW: DAN KENNEDY



" Facial massage really works, but only if you commit to doing it



Micro-needle at home



Gua sha facial massage daily

Stage 4: Moisturiser (optional)
I don't use a really heavy cream or facial oil at night because I think our skin needs to have time to breathe. But if you feel your skin needs it, add this step. I recommend a much lighter formula that can easily penetrate, as you should be careful of the weight you put on top of your skin.

How to look younger

Finger facial massage

Facial massage really works but only if you commit to doing it. This will get your lymph system working and is for somebody who suffers from what I call "wake-up puff". It might be that you sleep very flat or you eat inflammatory foods at night. The first thing you need to do is get the lymphatic system working. This is brilliant for oxygenating your skin. You will see redness, but it will quickly go.

Step 1 The lymph nodes are around your earlobes. Make tiny circular motions around the front and around the back of your earlobes. Do this very gently for 2 minutes.

Step 2 Start on one side first and always keep your fingers in contact with your skin. Gently move three of your fingers up to the front of your earlobe and down your neck all the way to your clavicle (collarbone) and repeat that process. Keep a rhythm and do this 20 times. This will move the toxins that are contributing to your puffiness. Your face will now feel awake.

Step 3 You can now move on to the eye area, but you must complete step 2 to see the benefit. If your lymph is blocked, the puffiness under your eyes has nowhere to go. This step is much quicker. Go to the inner corner of your eye and press your two middle fingers gently on the outside of your nose. Slightly lift, but not off the skin, and move slowly underneath the eye and press again. Repeat until you reach the outer corner.

Step 4 You're now going to take your middle finger of one hand and your ring finger and your middle finger on the other hand, and you create a scissoring motion to cause friction. Start on your forehead. You shouldn't actually be dragging your skin because you're continuously lightly pulling in opposite directions. Just go up and down and to the left and to the right for about a minute.

Step 5 Massage any other areas, such as your cheeks, to finish.

Gua sha

If you don't want to use your hands for the lymphatic facial massage, try gua sha. This is based on an ancient Chinese healing technique whereby blood flow and lymphatic drainage are stimulated by using a curved tool made from stones like jade, rose quartz or amethyst. You should apply gentle pressure when using this tool, and use both short and long strokes. Like with finger facial massage, you will want to get your lymphatic system working in the first instance. Apply a serum or facial oil and then use the tool on your face and neck. Ideally, use this daily or two or three times a week. Spend just five minutes doing this routine and you will be sure to see the difference. Be sure to be gentle and keep in mind that you may look slightly flushed just after using.

Micro-needling

This might be a scary idea to many, but it is an incredible treatment that can help with scarring, pigmentation, sagging skin and fine lines. I would not recommend a roller with a needle more than 0.5mm in depth for at home treatments. It is rolled over the skin, which creates "micro channels" to allow the product you put on to be absorbed deeply. This also stimulates the skin, rebuilding collagen and elastin. I do this once or twice a week.

How to micro-needle at home
- Rollers come with needles in a range of diameters. If it is your first time, start with 0.5mm needles and light strokes.
- Remember to replace the roller heads after about 10 uses, as the needles become blunt and stop being effective.
- Clean the roller head after use.
- Make sure the skin is well cleansed.
- Avoid the sensitive eye area.
- This is best followed with a non-irritating serum, like a hyaluronic acid or peptide, and avoid anything with fragrance. This is not good for people with sensitive skin, acne, eczema or rosacea. This can be used for acne scarring. Always seek the advice of a dermatologist or start with an in-salon treatment.

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Tired eyes

If you have puffy eyes

At night, when your body is still, fluid can build up. Sleeping face down or lying very flat can make this worse, so try to elevate your head. When we eat too many high-salt foods or drink sugary alcoholic drinks, our bodies hold on to extra water in an attempt to flush them out. Alcohol is also the enemy of a good night's sleep.
- Improve your sleep
- Reduce your salt and alcohol intake
- Massage your face in the morning

If you have dark circles

We have natural fat pads beneath our eyes, which for most people aren't very visible when we're younger. As we age, our skin loses its elasticity and plumpness, meaning the pads become more prominent. Our skin becomes thinner, and the blood vessels that surround our eyes become more apparent too. You may also suffer from hyperpigmentation, which is caused by an overproduction of the protein melanin. It can appear around the eyes where the skin is thinner.
- Drink plenty of water
- Double cleanse AM and PM
- Check your iron and B12 levels with a blood test

The fashion pack love a rugby shirt

Mick Jagger wore his under a blazer; Princess Di preferred to style hers with white jeans; Boris Johnson wears his jogging — but as the World Cup continues in France, rugby shirts look set to feature in the scrum at fashion week too.

The cool crowd aren't interested in the modern sweat-wicking varieties worn by Antoine Dupont et al, nor in the Lions' Lycra. It's the Will Carling-era baggy cotton version that has been resurrected from the sin-bin.

You might assume they've been inspired by the matches that kicked off at the weekend, but the fashion set have had their eye on rugby shirts for months. Stella McCartney showed two rugby jerseys on her autumn 2023 catwalk in Paris back in March. Her £650 take on the sporty separate came in black and red.

At MatchesFashion, its Raey black-and-white striped rugger top has sold out and is being restocked soon. On the high street Cos has similar kit, as does Anthropologie.

When Jagger wore his on stage in the Sixties fans rushed to emulate his mod take on the public school classic. In the Nineties Princess Diana made them practically uniform for off-duty Sloane Rangers.

These days, Gen Z shoppers consider the item vintage chic. The resale platform Depop reports that shopping searches for "vintage rugby top" are up 80 per cent this month.

At Copenhagen Fashion Week the Danish cool crowd paired rugby shirts with cargo shorts, miniskirts, and heels; hardly a look for rucks and mauls. But with London Fashion Week starting on Friday, you might see some foul tackles — especially if there's not enough space on the front row.

Hannah Rogers



Princess Diana

Copenhagen Fashion Week

fashion

Haute high street: would you

I've just tried on a white wool coat that's pure Succession — yet it's from Reiss, says Anna Murphy





I am confused. My job means that I often get an advance shufty at what's going to be in our shops soon, whether that's at the high street end of operations or peak posh. Better still, especially when it comes to the latter, I am able to try some of it on.

How can one of the most preternaturally posh things I have test-worn for the new season — an item so very 1 per cent that even me putting it on for just a few minutes felt wonderfully wrong — be from a high street brand? It's an oversize white wool coat that made me feel like a cross between Shiv from *Succession* and the White Witch from Narnia (which, in case you are wondering, I consider to be a good thing). It's from Reiss's first Atelier collection, which launches today.

When it comes to the collection as a whole, think Reiss but not quite as we know it. Or as Una Joyce, the womenswear director, says when we meet for my preview, "Reiss amplified". The brand's signatures are present and correct, with a strong showing in particular for tailoring, outerwear and the kind of evening dress designed to make you, and everyone else, go "ooh". But everything is just that little bit — how best to put this? — more.

That might be more in the literal sense ("That coat would have 15cm off the hem if it was in the mainline collection," Joyce says) or in the metaphorical sense (an especially stunning slashed-to-the-everything black lace frock is embellished with a second layer of lace cut-outs). It's definitely more when it comes to quality and — I am afraid — price, which is typically about double that of Reiss's mainline. Said coat weighs in at £895 (reiss.com); that dress, which forms part of a second wave available from October, at £725. Gulp.

What is going on? Aren't we in the middle of a cost of living crisis? Evidently not all cost of living crises are created equal. "Reiss is launching Atelier because we have been noticing

From left: jacket, £545, and trousers, £545; coat, £895, Reiss Atelier at reiss.com



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pay £900 for a coat?



for the last 18 months or so that there isn't any price resistance for us," Joyce says. Which means what? "Our top-end product often sells as well as the product at our lower price points. So we feel confident that there is an audience for a collection of the very best quality."

Certainly if your normal go-to is a brand like Max Mara, say, or Armani, Atelier's prices are a bargain. "We could see a gap in the market between top-end high street and the premium brands," Joyce says. "The premium brands' prices have become more and more inaccessible. Why spend four grand on a coat when you can buy something of similar quality made in the same mills for much less?"

In other words, one person's fantasy purchase is another person's reining it in. Although it's not only about price, Joyce says. "Many of the premium brands can also be tricky in terms of wearability." Atelier has plenty of what she calls "emotional content"; that point-of-difference detailing, plus fabrics that look and feel special. Yet it's the opposite of difficult — assuming, if you embrace all that stealth-wealth cream, you keep a Tide to Go Stain Pen in your bag at all times.

Another palpable shift on the high street is the rise of investment purchasing among customers for whom these kinds of prices are a stretch yet who are prepared to spend more on a wardrobe that is smaller but that lasts. Front-loaded as this is, cost-wise, it can save someone money in the long term.

Team Reiss worked with the kind of Italian and French mills that tend to get used by luxury brands. And while we are on the subject of Team Reiss, its womenswear design director, Jamie O'Hare, used to work at Tom Ford. There are Ford-like fingerprints all over that aforementioned sliver of lace, not to mention a trio of cracking tuxedo suits — one in black satin (jacket £545, trousers £325), one in red satin (jacket and trousers £545 each, available from October) and another in cream wool and black velvet (same prices as the black satin number), the trousers light at the front and dark at the back with a white side stripe for good measure (told you that Atelier was all about the detail).

> **"I felt like a cross between Shiv and the White Witch from Narnia**

Reiss isn't the only high street name to be dallying with the kind of price tags that lie outside its usual remit, though it has stuck its cashmere-clad neck out the furthest when it comes to the dial-up in quality and price. Clearly there is something afoot on the high street, a something that is in part a response to consumer weariness at the not-so-merry-go-round of "meh" fast fashion.

Also worth a gander is H&M Studio's latest collection, available from September 28. I have an aged trouser suit from it that still gets mistaken for designer. This time round I am coveting its black-and-white print, asymmetric, recycled polyester mididress with pussybow neck (£89.99, hm.com).

Then there's Massimo Dutti Studio (are you spotting a theme?), standouts there being the oversize cream satin bomber (£199, massimodutti.com) and the polka-dot matching shirt and skirt set (£129 each). There's an awful lot of cream going down in these collections. Is this about underlining that aforementioned 1 per centness, the better to entice those of us who belong, if we are honest with ourselves, firmly in the 99 per cent?

My top picks from Mango Selection include a grey silk shirt with fine white trim and a double-breasted wool-blend coat, available in camel and black (£140 and £199.99 respectively, mango.com). I also like the classic trench coat. Plus not forgetting, at £79.99, the long cream satin skirt. Told you.

Instagram: @annagmurphy

Bomber jacket, £199; shirt, £129, and skirt, £129, Massimo Dutti Studio at massimodutti.com

Trench coat, £229, Mango Selection at shop.mango.com

Dress, £90, and boots, £280, H&M Studio at hm.com from September 28

The power of turmeric — if you use it well

Turmeric, the blazing yellow spice taken in shots and added to everything from curries to lattes, has been touted as a remedy for ailments as diverse as high cholesterol, depression and aching joints — not always with rigorous scientific support. However, a new study in the BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine journal suggests turmeric is as effective as medicine for reducing stomach acid.

Researchers in Bangkok recruited patients with recurrent dyspepsia and asked them to take one of three treatments: turmeric in the form of capsules of curcumin, the active ingredient in the spice; one small capsule of omeprazole, a proton pump inhibitor used to treat heartburn; or turmeric and omeprazole capsules.

All three groups experienced similar improvements. How turmeric stands apart is that it was reportedly well tolerated by those taking it. The NHS lists common side-effects of omeprazole as headaches, diarrhoea and stomach pain.



But it's unlikely that much benefit would come from adding more turmeric to cooking. "Turmeric itself only has about 5 per cent curcumin and you'd need to consume about 40 grams of turmeric to ingest that much curcumin each day, which is not practical for many people," says Alex Ruani, a researcher in nutrition science at University College London. "It is a good idea to take any turmeric with black pepper, as it increases the bioavailability of curcumin by as much as 2,000 per cent."

It has other benefits. A combination of curcumin and piperine— an alkaloid in black pepper that has analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities — can reduce muscle damage caused by exercise if taken before and after a workout.

It certainly isn't a proven cure-all for the long list of complaints with which it has been associated. Some scientists have suggested it is fool's gold, and a 2017 review concluded that many of its purported benefits were overplayed.

Ruani says that it may be worth a try if you suffer from indigestion, though. "Curcumin, either from turmeric in food or a low-dose supplement, seems a non-offensive addition to our diets," she says. "But you should never stop using prescribed medicine without consulting your doctor, and if you do take turmeric you should not expect miracles."

Peta Bee

Working at 85 per cent is an act of self-care for my generation

Research suggests people are more productive if they give less than their all. Quite right, says Georgina Roberts

I took a Friday off work to go to a festival a couple of weeks ago. Most of my friends on the dancefloor with me hadn't actually booked the time off. One leant over as we danced and said, "It's so funny, my boss thinks I'm working from home today." My other friend, who had pulled the same stunt, shouted over the music with a grin, "I'm just going to say my wi-fi went down at home if my manager asks why I didn't reply."

This confirms the worst fears of every boss who allows their employees to work from home. I would never pretend to work when I'm on the clock like that. Instead, I subscribe to the 85-15 philosophy. Essentially, it's working slightly below your absolute limit so that you don't get burnt out and completely fried. It's a rule that Hugh Jackman has said he lives by and professional athletes such as Usain Bolt have used to improve their performance.

For me, working at 85 per cent capacity means taking days off to prioritise having a life — spending time with my friends and my boyfriend. Not working too hard is an act of self-care. It leaves me feeling far less anxious and probably more productive in the long run, because I'm happier. I don't want to end up like one banker friend who pushed herself too hard and worked such brutal hours that she ended up despising the job and quit.

This summer I've taken three Fridays off work to go to festivals. When my boss asked me if I wanted to work virtually from Glastonbury, I was horrified by the suggestion — in my mind, if I've booked the time off, that's sacred. After Glastonbury last year I took an extra two days off to recover at the fancy members' club Soho Farmhouse. I always take my birthday off too — why should I celebrate my big day sat at a plastic desk under fluorescent lighting?

My parents never would have done any of that. So I know that this philosophy of prioritising life over work probably sounds lazy or entitled to their generation, who idealised working themselves to the bone. But for my 26-year-old friends, working at 85 per cent capacity makes perfect sense. Most feel underappreciated and underpaid at their jobs, so why would they devote their entire lives to them?

The 85 per cent movement is the latest in the recent wave of "anti-work" trends taking off among Gen Zers. First it was "quiet quitting": doing the bare minimum and coasting at your job. Then it was the glamorisation of "lazy girl jobs", with young workers boasting on TikTok about having non-demanding jobs in which they send a few emails a day and clock off at 5pm.

My generation have been rejecting work as we know it, and that's not a bad thing, considering the levels of burnout and exhaustion in the workplace. Unlike millennials, the generation slightly older than us, we don't aspire to "hustle" into the early hours or become toxic "girl bosses". We just want a healthy work-life balance. We want to go on holidays, be on time for dinners and sunbathe on our lunch break.

We're prioritising our mental health too — more than half of Gen Zers have taken time off work owing to stress, anxiety and depression, according to a recent survey by the workplace wellbeing platform Unmind. If you've had a panic attack in the morning, what's the point of soldiering into the office and spending most of the day crying in the loo?

I've seen the toll that the old-school way of working can take. When one friend was at a top law firm doing 7am-to-10pm days, she started having frequent panic attacks and ended up taking a year out to go travelling. My dad, who was also a lawyer, often got home at 10pm when I was young and missed countless family dinners. He was glued to his BlackBerry on beach holidays as his colleagues ignored his "Out of office" responses. He often says that he regrets having worked so hard and missing out on us growing up, and I certainly don't want that life.

Part of the reason my generation work less hard is that we can, thanks to virtual working allowing you to do so from anywhere. One recruiter friend is WFA (working from abroad) from an Airbnb in Tuscany right now. Yesterday he took a couple of hours off to cycle round the local hills — certainly beats being starved of sunlight in a London office, resenting your job.

That said, lots of my friends take it too far and are "shirkers from home". One joined a Zoom call having not been to bed after a night out; another fell asleep for 20 minutes during a Teams meeting. My female friends often get their nails and hair done during a work day. The men are no better — they'll go to a pub at 2pm on a Tuesday and watch a football match with a beer. They take their laptops along and wiggle the mouse every five minutes so it looks as though they're online on Slack. Meanwhile, 46 per cent of Gen Z join work calls from bed — more than double the overall average for a British worker (17 per cent), according to a study published this month by the tech company Xmos.

Obviously pretending to work from home when you're shirking is a step too far. So it's all about balance: work hard, just not too hard. Excuse me while I go and book my next day off.

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES



Georgina Roberts, 26

> Most of my friends feel they're underpaid, so why would they devote their lives to their jobs?

… and why I'm aiming for 65 per cent

Yesterday I dropped off my kids at school, went to work, did some online shopping, went to the gym, answered some emails, went home and sat down with a glass of wine.

Did I put in a full 8-10 hour shift at the office? Not a chance. Did I achieve what I needed to? Absolutely. I'm a proud 85 per center — although in my case, it's more like 75 per cent gunning for 65. Because, frankly, life's too short to spend too much of it working, no matter what my contract might say. Haven't quite put the final touches to that presentation? Risk it being bad. Three hundred unanswered emails? Let it be. Getting home in time to see your family is more important — the emails will be there tomorrow.

Personally, I plan never to work a full five-day week again. I've got children, a job that's quite enough as it is, an equally busy husband and ageing parents. One day a week not spent in the office gives me at least a semblance of getting on top of it all, whether that's laundry, phoning my mum or seeing a friend. It gives me time in the week to take a breath — because there's no time to do that at the weekend with a family.

Not spending all your time at work makes you a better employee. So yes, I will pop out and get my nails done at lunchtime if I want, or take a personal call mid-morning. I will be adding to my Ocado order in between emails (something that a male colleague once questioned me on incredulously when he saw my computer screen — completely failing to notice the irony of the fact that he was sitting with his feet up doing the cryptic crossword).

And I have looked in the face of an officious man boss with a stay-at-home wife and a salary many multiples of mine and thought, "F*** it, I won't do what you're asking me right now, it's pointless" — all while nodding and smiling and pretending exactly the opposite.

We're all surely familiar with the concept of "emotional load" — all that other stuff in life that needs attending to, from cleaning to replying to school WhatsApps — and that most of it falls to the female half of a partnership. Being an 85-per center is part of that.

But life is about more than laundry — 85 per cent gets you a breath of fresh air at lunchtime, a couple of gym visits a week and clean pants; 75 per cent is all of that plus a few wines and the odd long weekend. However, my friends, 65 per cent is where it's really at: three days a week in the office, one day for admin, one day for fun. It'll make you a better human being.

The author has chosen to remain anonymous

EVERETT COLLECTION/ALAMY; ALAN MARKFIELD



Rumble in the Jungle 2

Clive Davis — theatre critic and pugilist — was mesmerised aged 15 by the 1974 fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Now he speaks to the creators of a show that will put him right into the action

When Norman Mailer wrote his ringside account of the 1974 showdown between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman he called it simply *The Fight*. But there was much more to that heavyweight championship bout than sporting prowess. This was a story of politics, race and money. Ali's charisma and courage — hardly anyone expected the ageing challenger to win back his title against a much younger champion — lifted the bout into the realms of high drama.

Here was the most famous man in the world, marching out to do battle in the middle of the night in Kinshasa, capital of what was then known as Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (The country's dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, had paid millions to stage the bout.) What we saw that night, as Ali pulled off a victory, was a display of artistry and cunning. It was, in short, the most visceral, profoundly moving performance, sporting or cultural, that I've ever seen.

There's already been an Oscar-winning documentary — *When We Were Kings* from 1996 — telling the story. Now it's the turn of immersive theatre-makers to bring it back to life. *Rumble in the Jungle Rematch*, which opens to the public in London's Docklands tomorrow, comes from the same company that won acclaim for *Wimbledon Rematch 1980*, a recreation of the classic men's final between Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe.

At the latest event, held in a warehouse-like complex, the director Miguel Torres (a veteran of Secret Cinema) and the producer Malú Ansaldo have created a spectacle that will give 750 audience members a sense of what it would have been like to wander through Kinshasa's street markets or hang out at the hotel where the world's media killed time in the build-up to the fight. Actors playing the two boxers choreograph their moves in front of a screen showing the real Ali and Foreman.

Other scenes have been scripted by Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu, director of the original version of Ryan Calais Cameron's *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy*. Narrators and a cast of characters create an impression of the circus-like atmosphere surrounding the bout, from Ali's entourage to the showbiz pronouncements of David Frost (who broadcast live from ringside) and the machinations of the brutal and corrupt Mobutu regime, which used the bout as a form of what we now call sportswashing.

"You can watch the video of the fight on YouTube, but what we're going to give people is an experience," Torres says. "It's not just a fight. Each character can be taking a different part of the story."

He draws a parallel with his experience of visiting Hong Kong to teach a workshop during the recent pro-democracy protests. "One day, I was enjoying watching a dragon festival in the streets and then I walked into a bar and met one of the students I'd been teaching. He was upset with the protesters: 'What the f*** are they doing in the middle of the festival?' And then I stepped out and met a young boy and he told me why they were protesting. So I had both points of view and the culture of the country. This is what I want an immersive show to feel like. You can have things happening at the same time. At the end you draw your own conclusions."



Music provides a backdrop too. In 1974 promoters organised a festival that assembled James Brown, Miriam Makeba and Celia Cruz. In a period when the cultural links between Africa and the black diaspora were still sketchy, it was a rare gathering of traditions. In *Rematch* musicians become an integral part of the action. On the day I visited rehearsals, a band led by the guitarist Femi Temowo — who provided the musical backdrop for the Young Vic's 2019 revival of *Death of a Salesman* – was leading the actors through a traditional song. "I grew up playing the guitar in the Nigerian community here, and we were heavily influenced by the music of Zaire," Temowo explains. "In the Seventies, Eighties and even the Nineties, it was like what Afrobeat is now. When I started to learn music I was learning from Congolese musicians. That music is second nature to me."

Top: Ali and Foreman in 1974. Above: Rumble in the Jungle Rematch. Below: Clive Davis



For oldies like me (I was 15 when the original Rumble took place and watched it on television later that day when it was broadcast on BBC1) it's easy to assume that Ali-Foreman is a part of everyone's cultural landscape. I box myself and I've watched the fight half a dozen times over the years, and still get a knot in my stomach when I watch the fighters step into the ring. For my generation, Ali was a godlike figure who transcended sport through his campaigns for civil rights. But we're talking about a sporting event that's half a century old. The Colombian-born Torres, who is 36, admits he didn't know about the Rumble before he joined the project, although as a music lover he'd seen the footage of Cruz singing with the classic Latin band the Fania All-Stars.

One man who has a very clear memory of the fight is the advertising executive Trevor Beattie, owner of a huge collection of Ali memorabilia and one of the show's main investors, who also designed its marketing campaign. He arrives at the rehearsal rooms with a suitcase of memorabilia which he shows to cast members. Among the shorts, dressing gowns and magazines are the typed and annotated scripts that commentator Harry Carpenter used on the night. (The use of "primitive" and "savage" to describe the setting are, you might say, very 1970s.) Later, as we tour the Docklands site Beattie recalls how, as a 14-year-old, he first met Ali when the great man was visiting Beattie's home town, Birmingham.

Beattie, who is now a film producer too (he co-financed the forthcoming biopic about the Beatles manager Brian Epstein), would love to make a film about Sonny Liston, the glowering heavyweight whom Ali beat to become world champion in 1964, a decade before the Rumble. As we walk around fake Kinshasa, Beattie recalls how he tuned in, as I had, to watch the Rumble on the BBC.

Could that really be nearly 50 years ago? The film-maker Ken Burns's recent eight-hour documentary series on Ali will have introduced a new generation to his exploits. The sad fact remains, though, for many people, it's ancient history. As Temowo observes, even figures as towering as Ali and Foreman are receding into the distance: "A lot of the young people I've spoken to ask, 'What are you working on?'" he says. "And I tell them Rumble in the Jungle. And they say, 'What's that?' Then I start to explain, and they're like, 'Oh, like the Will Smith movie?' And I tell them, 'Yeah. Kind of, but you get to be in it.'"

***Rumble in the Jungle Rematch* is at Dock X, SE16, from tomorrow; rumbleinthejunglerematch.com**

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai difficult

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

		2	8	7		9													6	5
			5		3			2				6			2		8		4	3
1																		2		8
6			1	8			9							3		2	1		5	9
		8	4			6	2	1				4								
			6		7	5		8					6			3	5	7	8	
2	3	4			5				2								3		9	
5	1						7								9	7				
		9						4		7		9								
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								2		6		8								
											8	6		5						
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				6	1								1						3	9
	3		4								3				7			8	6	1
	4	6	1	7			8					9		1	8		3			
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3	7		8	5		2							5			2	9			8
6		7																		6
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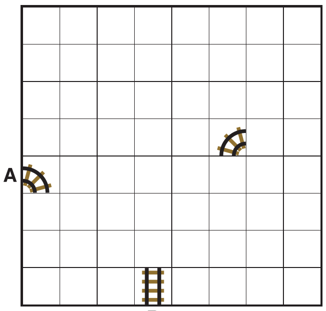
Sudoku easy

					7			
			1	9	2	4		
	7						9	
7	2						6	4
4	9	1		8			3	
	6						5	
2				7				
8			3	4	1	9		
	3	9		5	8			

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Column totals: 2 3 4 7 3 4 5 5
Row totals: 5 5 6 6 6 3 1 1

A

B

Killer gentle

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

6		12		18		7	15	
9	13	16		12			4	
		8				7	15	
13	8	13	8				12	
			4		17			12
6	9	4	15		6		14	
			12	14		16		3
16	14			6			13	
	8			20				

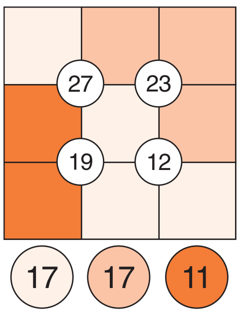
Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

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[ ] > [ ]   [ ]   [ ] < [ ]
 ^     v
[ ]   [ ]   [ ] > [ ] > [ ]
       ^
[ ]   [ ]   [ ] < [ ]   [ ]
       ^
[ ]   [4]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]

[ ]   [ ]   [4]   [ ]   [ ]
```

Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

25	16	12	13	2	16	20	26	■	7	5	16	2
19	■	17	■	22	■	17	■	7	■	25	■	22
22	24	20 C	22	10	■	23	22	20	26	9	17	12
24	■	10	■	10	■	17	■	17	■	18	■	21
13	12	19	15	■	5	12	19	24	21	18	22	23
■	■	12	■	16	■	11	■	10	■	■	■	17
16	24	11	19	24	17 E	■	10	17	12	6	17	13
6	■	■	■	10	■	21	■	13	■	16	■	■
24	16	22	10	9	20	16	23 L	■	10	7	16	12
17	■	24	■	14	■	10	■	10	■	20	■	17
7	17	9	8	22	12	17	■	16	6	16	7	7
9	■	10	■	17	■	16	■	4	■	12	■	17
16	3	17	12	■	1	22	2	9	23	16	24	10

A B ~~C~~ D ~~E~~ F G H I J K ~~L~~ M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			E			C			L			

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

	5		6	3	
		6			3
	3			1	
	6		5		
		2			4

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions

SAMURAI

6	2	7	3	8	5	4	1	9				1	8	7	5	3	2	6	9	4
9	3	8	6	1	4	5	7	2				4	9	3	6	1	8	7	2	5
4	5	1	7	2	9	3	8	6				5	6	2	7	4	9	1	3	8
7	4	5	9	6	2	8	3	1				8	5	1	3	9	6	4	7	2
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						3	7	6	8	1	5	9	2	4						
						4	9	5	7	3	2	8	6	1						
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7	3	9	2	5	4	6	8	1	9	5	7	4	3	2	1	5	7	9	6	8
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9	6	3	8	4	2	1	7	5				8	7	9	6	3	4	5	2	1
2	7	5	3	9	1	4	6	8				2	1	4	8	7	5	6	9	3
8	4	1	5	6	7	3	9	2				3	6	5	2	9	1	8	4	7
5	2	7	6	8	3	9	1	4				7	2	3	5	4	9	1	8	6
1	8	6	4	2	9	7	5	3				6	5	1	7	2	8	4	3	9
3	9	4	1	7	5	8	2	6				9	4	8	3	1	6	2	7	5

SUKO

7	4	1
5	8	2
9	3	6

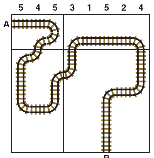
Circles: 24, 15, 25, 19

MINI SUDOKU

6	3	1	2	5	4
4	**2**	**5**	**6**	1	**3**
1	**5**	**2**	**4**	3	**6**
3	**6**	**4**	1	2	**5**
5	1	6	3	4	2
2	**4**	**3**	**5**	6	1

TRAIN TRACKS

Column totals: 5 4 5 3 1 5 2 4
Row totals: 3 7 4 4 5 4 1 1

A

B

FUTOSHIKI

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[3]   [4]   [1]   [2]   [5]
 v
[1]   [3]   [4] < [5] > [2]
 ^
[4]   [5]   [2] > [1]   [3]

[2] > [1] < [5]   [3] < [4]
 ^
[5]   [2] < [3] < [4]   [1]
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SUDOKU

8	1	7	5	4	3	2	9	6
2	4	6	1	7	9	3	5	8
9	3	5	8	6	2	1	7	4
7	5	3	2	8	1	6	4	9
4	9	2	3	5	6	8	1	7
1	6	8	7	9	4	5	3	2
5	8	9	6	3	7	4	2	1
3	2	4	9	1	8	7	6	5
6	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	3

KILLER

8	2	7	1	9	4	6	5	3
4	3	9	6	8	5	1	2	7
1	6	5	7	2	3	8	4	9
6	7	2	5	4	1	9	3	8
9	8	1	2	3	7	4	6	5
5	4	3	9	6	8	7	1	2
7	5	4	8	1	2	3	9	6
2	1	6	3	7	9	5	8	4
3	9	8	4	5	6	2	7	1

CODEWORD

S	P	E	E	C	H	■	S	C	A	R	A	B
Q	■	N	■	O	■	■	■	O	■	O	■	E
U	L	C	E	R	■	Z	O	O	L	O	G	Y
A	■	L	■	G	■	I	■	L	■	S	■	O
S	O	A	K	I	N	G	■	E	A	T	E	N
H	■	V	■	■	■	Z	■	S	■	■	■	D
■	■	E	X	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	■	■
J	■	■	■	O	■	G	■	■	■	E	■	S
A	R	R	O	W	■	G	Y	M	S	L	I	P
M	■	I	■	P	■	E	■	A	■	A	■	A
M	I	S	L	A	I	D	■	M	I	X	E	R
E	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	B	■	E	■	S
D	I	N	G	H	Y	■	F	O	N	D	U	E

All-action Adler takes a tour of Russia's neighbours

James Jackson
TV review



Living Next Door to Putin
BBC1
★★★★☆

As BBC current affairs series go, Katya Adler's **Living Next Door to Putin** has already admirably fulfilled two thirds of Lord Reith's mission statement. It is informing us how Russia's neighbouring countries are feeling as the Ukraine invasion starts to feel endless (answer: anxious), and it is educating us in recent and lesser-told Baltic history.

However, the opening montage was an unexpected one. An intro featuring a presenter ("I'm Katya Adler") gazing from hot-air balloons and yelling "Wooow!" from the cockpit of a jet plane as it flips upside down seemed more suited to a bog-standard celebrity travelogue than serious reportage on the potential escalation of war. Perhaps the producers were keen to go full Reith and be entertaining too.

The impressive Adler is nothing if not dynamic, though, even more so when freed from the shackles of interviewing Brussels politicians. Within ten minutes, she had left behind her camera crew to go it alone, bearing a handycam and running through forests in Poland at night to find asylum seekers being hunted by a police patrol. To say this felt a bit like we were watching a found-footage spy thriller isn't a complaint, because there's nothing like planting yourself directly in a situation to show just what's going on. In this case, we learnt how Russia's ally Belarus is expelling Middle Eastern migrants into Poland, where they aren't welcome (Ukrainian refugees are, it should be said). Just one way, apparently, that Russia is sowing discord among its neighbours.

The hour was sometimes as much a geography lesson as a geopolitical one. I wasn't even aware of Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania. Did you know that a strip of land along its border is known as the most dangerous place in the world? If Putin did a land grab here, it would provide a link between Kaliningrad, which is armed with nukes, and the rest of Russia, via Belarus. There was lots of this kind of illuminating but troubling insight.

OLLY BOOTLE



Katya Adler explored the impact of the invasion beyond Ukraine

And as we've come to expect of her, Adler made the complexities clear and concise, even when she was suddenly in a supercar screeching round a race track (the driver was a man who soups up vehicles to help Ukraine). Yes, all-action Adler had gone *Top Gear*. And in Latvia she went one further: *Top Gun*. That was while visiting a company offering jet-plane thrills to hear how businesses are being affected by the war. I guess it was more exciting than meeting a supermarket owner.

In case this sounds flippant, the point was well made: businesses are being affected by the destabilised situation and, shrewdly, Adler kept the focus on local people to tell the region's bigger story. She didn't need to speak to politicians in Latvia to discover the fine line its government faces to avoid the country's ethnic Russians' sympathies skewing towards their motherland.

If nothing else, watch the series for the account of a heroic Lithuanian newsreader who, while presenting the news in 1991, became part of the story. We saw footage of her staying put at her desk as Russians took her building by force. "Well, I'm probably saying goodbye to you, dear viewers," she said, without losing a beat of professionalism. I'm sure we could expect the same from Reeta Chakrabarti, but let's count on never finding out.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



Spitfire: From the Ashes
Radio 4 Extra, 8pm

In September 1940 Spitfires were being painstakingly assembled piece by piece in the Supermarine factory in Southampton. This sleek fighter, with a reputation for deadly precision, was to become one of the nation's most effective weapons against the Nazis. But the factory making them was about to be destroyed in three devastating bombing raids. This programme, which first aired in 2020, is constructed from letters, autobiographies, oral histories and contemporary interviews by the historian Victoria Taylor and tells the story of the extraordinary efforts to keep production going.

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley. Political interviews and conversation **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. A fresh look at the issues shaping our world **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. A full round-up of today's developments **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate with leading figures **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker. The main stories of the day **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Richard Osman chooses his Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Ricky Ross. Ricky sits in for Mark Radcliffe, presenting the best in traditional and contemporary folk and acoustic music with interviews and live sessions **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Seven of Rhythm Nation's biggest hits **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests.
9.00 Essential Classics
Georgia Mann presents a selection of music and features, including new discoveries, musical surprises and familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week: Chávez (1899-1978)
The composer returns to his homeland, where he is given charge of Mexico's first permanent orchestra and appointed director of the National Conservatoire. He does not waste time tearing up the curriculum and turning music education on its head. Chávez (*Soli I*; *Soli II*; *Sinfonia India*; *Xochipilli* and *Toccata* for Percussion Instruments)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Stephen Broad presents a recording of the Castalian String Quartet at the Queen's Hall from this year's Edinburgh Festival 2023. Beethoven (String Quartet No.13 in B flat major Op.130 — version including the original *Grosse Fugue* finale)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Ian Skelly presents a collection of new recordings by the BBC performing groups. Galuppi (Sinfonia in G); Tavener (Extracts from *The Veil of the Temple*); Stravinsky (*The Firebird* — concert suite from the ballet, 1919 version); Reger (*Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Mozart*); Vivaldi (Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor, RV 531) and Wagner (Prelude to *Parsifal*) (r)
4.00 Choral Evensong
From St Eustachius Church, Tavistock, during the Exon Singers Festival for the Eve of Holy Cross Day with music by King John IV of Portugal, Sarah Rimkus and Dobrinka Tabakova. Introit: Crux fidelis (King John IV of Portugal); Responses: Tomkins; Psalm 66 (Plainsong); First Lesson: Isaiah 52 v.13 — 53 v.12; Office hymn: The royal banners forward go (Gonfalon Royal); Canticles: Evening Canticles (Sarah Rimkus); Second Lesson: Ephesians 2 vv.11-22; Anthem: Praise (Dobrinka Tabakova); Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Rockingh); Voluntary: Diptych (Chorale) (Dobrinka Tabakova). Joseph Judge (conductor), Neil Taylor (organist). Recorded 28 July
5.00 In Tune
Music and arts news
7.00 Classical Mixtape
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Klaus Makela conducts the Oslo Philharmonic at the Edinburgh International Festival. Rolf Gupta (Epilogue from *Earth's Song*); Sibelius (Symphony No 7) and Mahler (Symphony No 4). The interval features a selection of songs by Mahler inspired by *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, in a recording by Austrian bass Gunther Groissbock and pianist Malcolm Martineau. Donald Macleod presents
10.00 Free Thinking
Diarmuid Hester joins Dodie Bellamy in a programme that explores the different aspects of the gay imagination
10.45 The Essay: Unearthing Britannia's Tribes
The elaborate chariot burials which distinguish the Parisi of East Yorkshire (r)
11.00 Night Tracks
Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 More or Less
Numbers used in everyday life (3/6)
9.30 Life Support
Two pharmacists reflect on social care (5/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Adam Smith: What He Thought and Why It Matters
By Jesse Norman (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Nuala McGovern presents
11.00 Lego Overboard
The story of a shipment of Lego washed ashore on the coast of Cornwall (r)
11.30 Alexei Sayle's Strangers on a Train
The comedian takes a train journey from London to Glasgow (2/6) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 The Immortals
Aleks Krotoski speaks to the leader of a new philosophical movement (8/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: The Making of a Monster
By Connor Allen (r)
3.00 Money Box Live
The latest from the world of personal finance
3.30 BBC National Short Story Award 2023
The third of this year's nominees (3/5)
4.00 Thinking Allowed
Thought-provoking issues (3/9)
4.30 The Media Show
News from the fast-changing media world
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Please Use Other Door
Sketch show taking a look at work, relationships and families (1/4)
7.00 The Archers
Ian proves himself a true friend
7.15 Front Row
Arts programme
8.00 AntiSocial
Presented by Adam Fleming (7/7) (r)
8.45 Just One Thing with Michael Mosley
How weight lifting can boost brain power and improve immune systems (7/10) (r)
9.00 When It Hits the Fan
The world of crisis management (2/8)
9.30 The Media Show
News from the fast-changing media world (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
News round-up with James Coomarasamy
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Exhibitionist
By Charlotte Mendelson (8/10)
11.00 Influencers
Ruth and Carla discuss the consequences of too much dietary fibre (3/6)
11.15 Welcome to the Neighbourhood with Jayde Adams
Jayde is joined by Jessica Fostekew (1/4)
11.30 Today in Parliament
Analysis of the day's developments
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Adam Smith: What He Thought and Why It Matters (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **9.00** Nature Table **9.30** His Master's Voice **10.00** The Psychedelic Spy **10.45** Short Works **11.00** The Three Musketeers **11.30** Berkely Mather — The Hard Buy **12.00** Casanova in London **12.15pm** Agnes Grey **12.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Open Letters **1.00** Hancock's Half Hour **1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **2.00** Nature Table **2.30** His Master's Voice **3.00** The Psychedelic Spy **3.45** Short Works **4.00** The Three Musketeers **4.30** Berkely Mather — The Hard Buy **5.00** Casanova in London **5.15** Agnes Grey **5.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Open Letters **6.00** Hancock's Half Hour **6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **7.00** Nature Table. Comedy panel show hosted by Sue Perkins from ZSL London Zoo **7.30** His Master's Voice. Political satire, by Mark Tavener and Steve Punt **8.00** Spitfire: From the Ashes. How the fighter was built after the factory making them was destroyed. ***See Radio Choice*** **9.00** Short Cuts. Josie Long hears stories of what follows after a main event **9.30** Eye of the Cricket. Crime thriller by James Sallis **10.00** Comedy Club: Lucy Porter's Lucky Dip. Lucy Porter returns with an examination of middle-aged suburban life **10.30** World of Pub. The innovations reach a peak of danger. Last in the series **11.00** The Harpoon. Spoof boys' magazine with Peter Baynham

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **8.30** 5 Live Golf **9.00** 5 Live Sport **9.30** Rugby World Cup Top Tens **10.00** Laura McGhie **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Of. Debate on sporting issues **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am Cristo Foufas **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **9.30** Mike and Kev **10.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **1.00pm** Ian Collins **3.00** Alex Phillips **5.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host's verdict on the day's events **9.00** The Talk **10.00** First Edition **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **10.00** Riley & Coe **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** From Mento to Lovers' Rock **3.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Joe Clay

Welcome to Wrexham
Disney+

Top pick

The trials and tribulations of a non-league football club might not seem like a recipe for telly gold, but when that team is owned by acting royalty — the *Deadpool* star Ryan Reynolds and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*'s Rob McElhenney — the entertainment levels are raised considerably. The first series of *Welcome to Wrexham*, which followed the takeover of Wrexham AFC (the third oldest professional football club in the world) and the club's first season under its new owners, was one of the unlikely TV hits of 2022, with more dramatic turns than an overblown soap opera, and plenty of humour and pathos thrown into the mix. It made unlikely stars out of journeyman players, such as the talented forward Paul Mullin, and boosted Wrexham's profile, especially in the US. Spoilers ahead … If you didn't watch it or don't follow non-league football, in series one Wrexham narrowly missed out on promotion to League Two from the National League, where this sleeping giant of a football club has been languishing since 2008. The stewardship of Reynolds and McElhenney, and accompanying docuseries, has brought Wrexham millions of new fans, not to mention many naysayers who are disgruntled at the Welsh club's financial boost. So expectations are sky high as the new season begins and the pressure is on for the team, led by manager Phil Parkinson, to win promotion.

The Morning Show
AppleTV+

The Emmy award-winning satirical drama set in the studios of a morning news show returns for a third series, with Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon reprising their roles as the bickering on-off friends/co-anchors. Disturbing their dynamic is Christina Hunter (Nicole Beharie), a competitive millennial who is a new anchor. There is also added ham — Jon Hamm, that is, playing Paul Marks, a future tech titan who sets his sights on UBA, throwing the network's future into doubt. The first two episodes are available today.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live. Magazine show **10.00** Critical Incident. A police officer becomes the victim of a brutal assault (r) **10.45** Expert Witness. A look at how food forensics and facial reconstruction can help investigations (r) (AD) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. The progress of properties in Pudsey, Willenhall and Rochdale (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. From Brackley in Northamptonshire (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Al's great day quickly turns sour, while Daniel shields Joe from the truth and Bear fails to notice Claudia is worried (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore searches for items at Beaconsfield recycling centre **3.00** Escape to the Country. Alistair Appleton accompanies a couple looking for a home in North Yorkshire (r) (AD) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Lee Burkhill and Flo Headlam head to Winchester, Hampshire, where they set about designing and constructing a magical woodland garden **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz contest hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD, SL) **8.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **11.15** Politics Live **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. Jeremy Dein and Sasha Wass examine the violent assault and murder of a teenage girl in 1918 (r) (AD) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals. The senses, anatomy and physiology of bats (r) (AD) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo reaches London on his journey from Warwick to Rye (r) (AD) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? Former *The Only Way is Essex* star Mark Wright investigates his family history (r) (AD) **5.00** Flog It! Experts Mark Stacey and Christina Trevanion visit Huddersfield Town Hall in West Yorkshire (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe, Richie Anderson, Jo Caulfield and Carol Smillie (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef plants some winter veg and learns the art of charcuterie — a method of preserving meat products

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and celebrity gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. In Madrid, James samples dishes including garlic prawns, churros and a calamari sandwich, and also meets a blind food critic (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis. A mother and her four sons take on a series of top 10 list questions **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents the quiz show as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and attempt to win a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Château DIY. A bridal suite is created by connecting two rooms via a wardrobe (r) (AD) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A father and son convert an oil rig escape boat into a floating home (r) (AD) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10pm** Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Jasmine Harman helps a family to find a home in Mojacar, Spain (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A search for properties in the southwest of Tenerife **5.00** Four in a Bed. The rivals visit Hedgerow Luxury Glamping in Clitheroe, Lancashire (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. A podiatrist treats her guests to a nostalgic night (r) (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer takes Ned Flanders to Las Vegas, where they get drunk and wake up to find themselves married to cocktail waitresses (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Lacey overhears a conversation Rayne is having with Faye and calls her out for exploiting cohesive control. Meanwhile, Cindy plans a date night in for her and Dave (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with the presenter, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Felicity is haunted by flashbacks to the night of her assault and needs to rush out of the Lyrik gig. Marilyn confides in Mackenzie over her fears for Irene (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Exit Stage Death: Picture Perfect Mysteries (PG, TVM, 2020)** While backstage, a photographer discovers the body of a show's leading lady, murdered before the curtain went up. Mystery starring Alexa PenaVega **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A woman organises a charity fundraiser in Benidorm, while a Costa Del Sol bar owner gives a potential employee a trial **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. The presenter heads for the West Country, and travels from Bath to Cheddar, before visiting Wells and ending in Weston-super-Mare (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

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7PM – Late

BBC1
7.00 **The One Show** Live magazine show, co-hosted by Alex Jones

7.30 **EastEnders** Emma pushes Jay for access to Lexi, and Chelsea invites her and Ravi's families to a drinks party in the hope of restoring peace (AD)

8.00 **The Repair Shop** The experts work on a fragile football programme from a 1970 match that was signed by the legendary Pele, a teddy bear with hardly any fur and a wonky leg, and a guitar that is cracked at the neck (AD)

9.00 **DIY SOS: The Big Build** Nick Knowles and the team head to Northumberland to finish a build they started before the pandemic, helping a couple whose daughter has complex medical and mental health issues (r)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.40 **Andrew Tate: The Man Who Groomed the World?** Investigative documentary about the former kickboxer who rose to fame on social media before facing rape and human trafficking charges, seeking to explain how and why he was able to influence so many people across the world (r)

11.45 **Ambulance** A weekend night shift sees an advanced paramedic dispatched to a baby born in the passenger seat of a car, and two crewmates are sent to a patient with signs of a stroke who needs urgent treatment (3/6) (r)

12.50am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2
7.00 **Your Home Made Perfect** Property makeover show, presented by Angela Scanlon. Two architects compete to remodel a home in Scotland for a family, whose three-bedroom house in Stirling is now too cramped for the pair and their three children (1/8) (r) (AD)

8.00 **Inside the Factory** Gregg Wallace visits a croissant factory in France that produces 336,000 pastries a day, and Cherry Healey talks to a professor who specialises in exploring human senses about the perfect way to eat the pastries (3/10) (r) (AD)

9.00 **Jack the Ripper — The Case Reopened** Documentary in which *Silent Witness* star Emilia Fox and Professor David Wilson re-examine the infamous murders, which took place in the Whitechapel district of London in the late 19th century (r) (AD)

10.00 **Mock the Week** With guest panellists Maisie Adam, Angela Barnes, Rhys James, Eshaan Akbar and Alasdair Beckett-King (1/13) (r)

10.30 **Newsnight** Headline analysis

11.15 **ODI Cricket** England v New Zealand. Action from the third match in the four-game series, at the Oval

12.15am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby Monica Galetti and Rob Rinder visit the Phinda Game Reserve in South Africa (r) (AD) **1.15** Sign Zone: Ultimate Wedding Planner. A Hollywood-style wedding (r) (AD, SL) **2.15** The Hidden World of Hospitality with Tom Kerridge (r) (AD, SL) **3.15-3.45** Celebrity MasterChef (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
7.30 **Emmerdale** Cathy is officially diagnosed and blindsides Bob. Meanwhile, Cain and Caleb agree to a pact to stick together (AD)

8.00 **Coronation Street** Stu realises that Eliza has run away to Dom's, Roy's new house guest makes an impact, Dee-Dee scuppers her chances with Joel, and Dev uncovers the identity of Aadi's secret lover (AD)

9.00 **My Mum, Your Dad** The parents take part in a workshop where they are encouraged to acknowledge resentments of the past, which some are struggling to let go of. At the end of this edition, there is a surprise that brings hope for some (3/10) (AD)

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**

10.30 **Regional News**

10.45 **Peston** Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures

11.40 **My Mum, Your Dad** The parents take part in a workshop to work through old resentments (3/10) (r) (AD)

12.30am The Chase Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **1.20** Tipping Point. Quiz hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **2.10** Loose Women. Topical debate (r) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. A visit to Madrid (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **Geordie Hospital** A surgeon performs valve replacement surgery on a 13-year-old, a hospital chaplain trains up a new staff welfare dog and a specialist nurse removes a kidney stone from a rugby player (AD)

9.00 **Screw** Rose changes tactics to get what she needs from Louis. The truth finally comes out about Katy Trent's killer — and it is more shocking than anyone could have imagined (5/6) (AD)

10.00 **First Dates** A 21-year-old post-grad student is paired with a rugby-playing Tom Hardy impersonator, a 35-year-old seeks a man who is not going to "mess her around" and a truck driver returns to the restaurant for a date with a 50-year-old fellow Geordie (4/7) (r) (AD)

11.05 **Selling Super Houses** PK piles on the pressure with a huge marketing task — to produce a video tour, particulars and high-spec presentation for two super-prime houses

12.10am Remarkable Places to Eat Fred Sirieix and restaurateur Thomasina Miers explore south Wales (r) (AD) **1.05** Selling Super Houses (r) (AD) **2.00 FILM: The Handmaiden (18, 2016)** Psychological thriller starring Kim Min-hee and Kim Tae-ri **4.20** Undercover Boss USA (r) **5.10-6.05** Couples Come Dine with Me (r)

Channel 5
7.00 **Into Death Valley with Nick Knowles** Nick ventures into one of the least hospitable places on Earth, a region in southwest America where the world's highest temperature of 57C was recorded in 1913 (1/2) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Norfolk and Suffolk: Country & Coast** On the Norfolk coast, a chef picks up fresh crab for his lunch time service, while two shepherds check on lambs born on their farm in Suffolk. Elsewhere, cameras are at Gorleston Golf Club in Norfolk for the first big meeting of the season (2/6)

9.00 **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** New series. A patient is rushed in suffering from serious burns, and he needs to be doused with water to try to stop the injuries spreading further on his body. Meanwhile, a 74-year-old woman needs emergency surgery after having a fall at home

10.00 **999: Critical Condition** A doctor conducts an extraordinary operation to save a woman with a life-threatening aneurysm in her brain, and trauma doctors try to save a man who collapsed with a cardiac arrest by removing a clot in his artery that is destroying his heart (7/8) (r)

11.00 **MTV VMAs 2023** The biggest stars come together to attend the ceremony, celebrating the best music videos of the year and honouring artists from the worlds of pop, rock and more

2.00am Live Casino Show Interactive gambling **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. Three strip-club workers have a contest to drum up more business (r) (SL) **4.45** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.10** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Entertainment News on 5 **5.40** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r)

Voyage to Mars: The Longest Goodbye
BBC4, 8.30pm

Nasa is planning on sending astronauts to Mars, with the success of the probable three-year mission dependent on crew members overcoming unprecedented challenges. Many of these are physical, but the most elusive are psychological, with the impact of isolation impossible to predict. The film follows Dr Al Holland, a Nasa psychologist whose job is to keep astronauts mentally stable in space as they grapple with the tension between achieving their dream of landing on Mars and the basic need for human contact.

Domina
Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm/10.05pm

A second series for the explicit swords-and-sandals epic chronicling the brutal age of the Roman Empire from a female gaze, that of Livia Drusilla (Kasia Smutniak). It's imperative you watch the first series to have any idea what's going on, so complex are the political machinations that unfolded (although there is an abundance of helpful expositional dialogue). The second series begins in 19BC and Livia, now married to Gaius (Matthew McNulty), returns to Rome after three years away to find a city in revolt and her children in open rebellion.

Discovering
Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

A new series begins with Leonardo DiCaprio, and it makes a refreshing change to have critics analysing his acting talents rather than columnists picking apart his playboy lifestyle. Ian Nathan says DiCaprio's career has been typified by his "restlessness", and Stephen Armstrong says that while he is perceived as a matinee idol, he would rather be seen as a "solid, hard-working character actor". He could have just played "pretty boys" but instead he put in the hard yards, with complex roles in films such as *The Basketball Diaries* and *The Revenant*.

Film The Mustang
Film4, 11.15pm

Matthias Schoenaerts reveals his latest thug with a heart in this spare, bleakly moving indie drama by the French director Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre. Schoenaerts plays a taciturn hardman, Roman Coleman, an American prisoner with a violent past. (15, 2019)

Sky Max
6.00am Supergirl (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **11.00** Supergirl (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **6.00** Stargate Atlantis. A coalition of human worlds puts Sheppard and the team on trial (r) **7.00** Stargate Atlantis. Michael and a group of henchmen manage to infiltrate Atlantis (r) **8.00** An Idiot Abroad 2. Karl Pilkington visits a desert island in the South Pacific (r) (AD) **9.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Stefflon Don, Jake Shears and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell (r) **9.45** Strike Back: Retribution. Section 20 races to prevent a gas attack in a busy airport (r) (AD) **10.45** COBRA: Cyberwar. The cyberattack continues to jam communications (2/6) (r) (AD) **11.45** Road Wars. Vehicle crimes (r) **12.45am** Road Wars (r) **1.15** Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **3.05** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

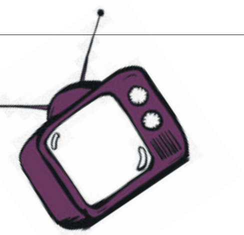
Sky Atlantic
6.00am The Guest Wing (r) (AD) **7.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **10.15** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Raised by Wolves (r) (AD) **3.25** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **5.45** Ray Donovan. An FBI agent arrives to investigate the shootout at the dock (r) (AD) **6.50** Ray Donovan. A reporter in Boston grows increasingly interested in Sully's murder (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Yara Greyjoy leads a mission to rescue her brother Theon (r) (AD) **9.00** Domina. Historical drama starring Kasia Smutniak. *See Viewing Guide* (1/8) (r) **10.05** Domina. Livia faces a battle with Octavia over the marriage alliance between Drusus and Antonina. *See Viewing Guide* (2/8) (r) **11.10** True Detective. Four individuals become wrapped up in a murder inquiry (1/8) (r) (AD) **12.20am** Angels in America (r) **1.30** Dreamland (r) (AD) **2.00** The Lovers. Janet makes a suggestion that she and Seamus should have an affair **2.35** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.40** In Treatment (r) **4.10** The Guest Wing (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries
6.00am The 2000s (r) **7.00** Discovering: Bruce Willis (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** Kingdom of Dreams (r) (AD) **9.55** The Vietnam War (r) **11.00** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: The Loneliest Whale: The Search for 52 (PG, TVM, 2021) 2.00pm FILM: I Am Alfred Hitchcock (15, 2021)** (AD) **3.50** My Icon: Kadeen Corbin (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Bruce Willis (r) **6.00** Kingdom of Dreams. Rivalry between designers spills out onto the catwalks (r) (AD) **6.55** The Vietnam War. President Nixon begins withdrawing American soldiers (r) **8.00** 100 Foot Wave. Officials in Nazaré, Portugal announce a surf ban (2/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** Telemarketers. A look at the murky truth behind a seedy New Jersey call centre (1/3) (r) **10.10** I Am Johnny Cash (r) (AD) **11.55** Phoenix Rising. Documentary (1/2) (r) **1.20am** Phoenix Rising (r) **3.00 FILM: Assassins (12, 2020)** Documentary starring Siti Aisyah **5.00** Discovering: Bruce Willis (r)

Sky Arts
6.00am Beethoven: The Complete Symphonies **6.30** The Royal Ballet in Cuba **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Vanessa Redgrave **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Cirque du Soleil: Zaia **3.00** Classic Movies: The Story of The Ladykillers **4.00** Discovering: Jason Robards **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** The Joy of Painting. Double bill **8.00** The Directors. Profile of John Carpenter, whose films include cult classic *The Thing* (AD) **9.00** Discovering: Leonardo DiCaprio. New series. A profile of the actor. *See Viewing Guide* **10.00** Kubrick by Kubrick. A look at the life and films of director Stanley Kubrick (AD) **11.35** Patrick Melrose (AD) **12.45am** Laurie Lee: The Lost Interview (AD) **1.45** Hired Gun **3.45** A Play in a Day **4.45** Inside Art: Picasso/Ingres at the National Gallery **5.10** The South Bank Show Originals

Sky Main Event
6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Live One-Day International Cricket: England v New Zealand. Coverage of the third ODI in the four-match series at the Oval, London, as England build up to their defence of their 50-over title in this Autumn's World Cup in India. They play this series against the Kiwi's, followed by a three-match series against Ireland later on in the month. Jos Buttler's team then face New Zealand again in their opening World Cup match on October 5 **8.30pm** Sky Sports News. The latest headlines **10.00** Sky Sports News at Ten **10.30** Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Live WNBA: Connecticut Sun v Minnesota Lynx (Tip-off **1.00**). Coverage of game one of the first round play-off series from Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville **3.00** Sky Sports News

NEWSLETTERS





THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
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TalkTV
6.00am Cristo **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. All the stories you need to know to start your day **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their take on the front pages **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. A look through the newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues, debates and dedicated time for your calls **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The host tackles the big stories of the day **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Exclusive interviews, and viewers' thoughts on what has got the nation talking **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The host leads a discussion on the issues making the news **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the latest topics everybody is talking about **10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at the early editions of tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken. Bringing the latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** Cristo

BBC4
7.00pm The Sky at Night. A visit to the Very Large Telescope observatory in Chile's Atacama Desert. Maggie Aderin-Pocock presents (AD) **7.30** Universe. Professor Brian Cox explores the cosmos, beginning with how stars brought life and meaning to the universe (AD) **8.30** Voyage to Mars: The Longest Goodbye. Documentary following Nasa psychologist Dr Al Holland as he prepares Mars-bound astronauts for the psychological demands of a three-year absence from Earth. *See Viewing Guide* **10.00** Amanda Burton Remembers Silent Witness. The actress looks back at the early years of the long-running forensic drama **10.15** Silent Witness. Part one of two. Dr Ryan investigates a boxing tragedy (1/8) (AD) **11.05** Silent Witness. Part two of two. Sam Ryan continues looking into the cause of brain injuries sustained by a boxer (2/8) (AD) **11.55** Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. With Professor Dame Sue Black, one of the world's leading forensic investigators **12.55am** A Very Singular Man: A Film Portrait of Edward Heath **1.55** Universe (AD) **2.55-3.55** The Riviera: A History in Pictures (SL)

Talking Pictures
6.00am The Detectives (b/w) **7.00 FILM: Kiss the Bride Goodbye (PG, 1945)** (b/w) **8.45 FILM: The Marked One (U, 1963) 10.00** Together **10.35 FILM: Railroaded (PG, 1947)** (b/w) **12.05pm FILM: SOS Pacific (PG, 1959)** (b/w) **1.50** Look at Life **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** Saddle Up **3.05 FILM: Forty Guns (PG, 1957)** Western starring Barbara Stanwyck (b/w) **4.45** Saddle Up **4.50** Johnny Ringo **5.20** The Golden West Virginia City. Short film **5.30** Turn of Fate (b/w) **6.00** For the Love of Ada. Sitcom **6.35 FILM: Bulldog Drummond in Africa (U, 1938)** Mystery starring John Howard (b/w) **7.45** Look at Life. Documentary looking at how women influence what bread is made of **8.00** Public Eye. Frank has to fend off the overtures of a group of wealthy ladies **9.05 FILM: An Innocent Man (18, 1989)** Thriller starring Tom Selleck and Laila Robins **11.25 FILM: Picnic at Hanging Rock (PG, 1975)** Period mystery starring Rachel Roberts **1.35am FILM: Underworld USA (15, 1961)** Thriller starring Cliff Robertson (b/w) **3.30 FILM: I Remember Mama (U, 1948)** (b/w)

Film4
11.00am Father Goose (U, 1964) Comedy drama with Cary Grant (AD) **1.20pm Young Winston (PG, 1972)** Biopic of Winston Churchill starring Simon Ward (AD) **4.10 Attack! (PG, 1956)** An American lieutenant resolves to kill his superior officer, whose mistakes have cost the lives of his comrades. War drama starring Jack Palance (b/w) (AD) **6.20 K-19: The Widowmaker (12, 2002)** The crewmen of Russia's first nuclear submarine struggle to prevent a cataclysmic reactor explosion. Kathryn Bigelow's fact-based thriller starring Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson (AD) **9.00 Conan the Barbarian (15, 2011)** A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure with Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang (AD) **11.15 The Mustang (15, 2019)** A violent convict participates in a rehabilitation therapy programme involving the training of wild mustangs. Drama starring Matthias Schoenaerts and Jason Mitchell (AD). *See Viewing Guide* **1.10am-4.00 Paris, Texas (15, 1984)** Wim Wenders' drama starring Harry Dean Stanton

More4
8.55am Kirstie's Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo: Underwater Special (AD) **6.55** The Dog House. A three-legged labrador seeks a new best friend, and his owners hope that a beautiful saluki will win him over (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. An ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway is hit by bad weather (5/12) (AD) **9.00** The Duchess and Her Magical Kingdom. Duchess Jane Percy travels to Florida to visit her family, before heading to Copenhagen to see her play structure being built (4/6) (AD) **10.00** I Survived 9/11. Documentary about the survivors of the World Trade Center attacks, including a lawyer from Hertfordshire (AD) **11.00** 24 Hours in A&E. An 11-month-old baby is rushed in after suffering a seizure and a man arrives with a self-inflicted stab wound (AD) **12.05am** The Duchess and Her Magical Kingdom (AD) **1.10** 999: On the Front Line **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.15-3.45** A Place in the Sun

ITV2
6.00am CITV **9.00** One Tree Hill **10.00** Dawson's Creek **11.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **12.00** Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dinner Date (AD) **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Family Fortunes. Game show **8.00** Superstore. Dina agrees to take the heat when Amy is forced to cut the staff hours (AD) **8.30** Superstore. Amy and Jonah use a photograph of the store to their advantage (AD) **9.00** Gordon, Gino and Fred: American Road Trip. The trio travel from Nevada to Los Angeles (AD) **10.00** Family Guy. Chris wangles an invitation for the clan to join a country club (AD) **10.30** Family Guy. Joe and Quagmire are suspicious of Peter's new friend Mahmoud (AD) **11.00** Family Guy. Mayor West is tried for a murder committed at his mansion (AD) **11.30** American Dad! Animation (AD) **12.05am** American Dad! (AD) **12.30** Superstore (AD) **1.30** Celebrity Karaoke Club **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** CITV

ITV3
6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Endeavour (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. A boy goes missing after discovering his mother's infidelity (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. A sniper shoots a woman as she leaves a committee meeting (AD) **8.00** Lewis. When a maintenance engineer is found dead, Lewis and Hathaway investigate a link between the murder and an intruder at a professor's home earlier in the night (1/4) (AD) **10.00** Trigger Point. The explosives team is called out to a device targeting a radio station covering the by-election, leading counter-terrorism officers to suspect a connection with the Progressive Alliance (5/6) (AD) **11.05** Trigger Point. The team deals with a device planted at the HQ of the Progressive Alliance, while Sonya discovers a link to secret operations in Afghanistan (6/6) (AD) **12.10am** Where the Heart Is. Rural drama (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.10** The Saint **9.20** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.25** Magnum, PI **11.25** The Motorbike Show **12.25pm** The Saint **1.30** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.40** Magnum, PI **3.40** Made in Britain (AD) **4.10** The Professionals (AD) **5.20** Nijinsky's Triple Crown **5.30** Live Racing League. Matt Chapman presents coverage of the sixth and final week of the league, which comes from Southwell, as the team and individual champions are crowned. With analysis from Jason Weaver and Luke Harvey, reports by Natalie Green, and commentary from Mark Johnson **9.10 FILM: Mad Max 2 (18, 1981)** A drifter roaming a post-apocalyptic wasteland helps protect a community from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Futuristic adventure sequel starring Mel Gibson and Bruce Spence (AD) **11.05** All Elite Wrestling: Collision. Another edition of hard-hitting, high-flying action **1.10am** Minder (AD, SL) **2.15** The Protectors (SL) **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama
6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** Pie in the Sky **3.05** Lovejoy **4.15** All Creatures Great and Small **5.25** The Upper Hand **5.55** 'Allo 'Allo! Classic comedy **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. The mischievous trio come up with another madcap scheme **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Clegg takes Compo and Seymour on a trip down memory lane **8.00** Kingdom. Peter helps an aristocrat whose brother is selling titles, and Lyle aids a small-holder taking on a pharmaceutical giant (6/6) **9.00** Maisie Raine. The detective organises an operation to infiltrate a highly professional group of automobile thieves (6/6) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The team investigate a hit-and-run on a courier and think he was targeted for a parcel he was carrying (5/10) (AD) **11.20** Silent Witness. An American diplomat is shot dead, but the investigation is quickly hampered by arguments over jurisdiction (AD) **1.25am** Lovejoy. With Ian McShane **2.35** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday
6.10am Sounds of the Sixties **6.35** Sounds of the Sixties: The Folk Revival **7.15** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases. Exploring Ksiaz Castle **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Bangers & Cash. Cars including an MG Midget and RS2000 come up for auction (9/10) **8.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo ventures onto the European rail network in Spain, beginning in Salamanca **9.00** Ireland with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon visits Belfast for the July 12 parades, as well as exploring the Giant's Causeway **10.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team buy a Francis Barnett Plover (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering (7/12) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Train Truckers **2.00** The Architecture the Railways Built (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 2.15pm Politics Scotland. A round-up of political news **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing. A search for items at Beaconsfield recycling centre **11.45** Scottish Questions. From Westminster **12.15am** The Edit. Entertainment news (r) **12.30** Ambulance. A baby born in the passenger seat of a car needs urgent attention (r) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 Henpocalypse! Zara finds herself in emotional turmoil over Gary (AD) **11.15** The Royle Family. Dave is accused of flirting with Beverley Macca (r) (AD) **11.45** ODI Cricket. England v New Zealand **12.45am-1.15** Mock the Week: The History Of… The last ever edition of the topical comedy panel show (r) (AD)

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show **11.05** Peston. Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston **11.55** My Mum, Your Dad. The parents take part in a workshop to work through resentments they are holding on to (r) (AD) **12.50am-1.20** The People's History Show. The history of the old Hoover plant based in Cambuslang (r) **3.50-5.05** Night Vision. News and sport from across Scotland

UTV
As ITV1 except: 11.40pm-12.30am Love Your Garden. Alan Titchmarsh and the team surprise a Second World War veteran with a garden transformation in the town of Hinckley (r) (AD)

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Scotland Sings (r) **8.00** Born to Be Wild (r) **8.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Junior Doctors: Life on the Wards. New series. Documentary following six first year junior doctors at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (AD) **10.30** The Ideal Scotsman (r) **11.30-12.00** The Disasters That Shocked Scotland (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Nannag a' Noo/Huggleboo (r) **5.10** Bing (r) **5.15** 'S E lasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.20** Abadas (r) **5.30** Lon le Linda (r) **5.50** Stòiridh **5.55** Ronia, Nighean a' Mheirlich/Ronja, the Robber's Daughter (r) **6.20** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles (r) **6.35** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.25** Live SWPL: Celtic v Hearts (Kick-off **7.35**) **9.35** Binneas — Na Trads (r) **10.00** Orain Oir (r) **10.30** Celtic Connections (r) **11.30** Bannan (The Ties That Bind) (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Fferm Fach (r) **6.20** Octonots (r) **6.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **6.45** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **7.00** Timpo (r) **7.10** Dreigiau Cadi **7.20** Jamborî (r) **7.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau **7.45** Cacamwnci (r) **8.00** Sali Mali (r) **8.05** Digbi Draig (r) **8.20** Hafod Haul (r) **8.35** Twt (r) **8.45** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **9.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **9.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **9.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **9.45** Deian a Loli (r) **10.00** Timpo (r) **10.10** Dreigiau Cadi (r) **10.20** Jamborî (r) **10.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **10.45** Cacamwnci (r) **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw: Nos Da Cyw (r) **11.05** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **11.20** Octonots (r) **11.35** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **11.45** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Dau Gi Bach (r) (AD) **1.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Prosiect Pum Mil (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Blociau Rhif (r) **4.05** Dreigiau Cadi (r) **4.15** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **4.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.45** Cacamwnci (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Byd Rwtsh Dai Potsh (r) **5.15** Bwystfil (r) **5.25** Prosiect Z (r) **5.50** News Ni **6.00** Ceffylau Cymru (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Dan Do **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Anfamol (AD) **9.30** Rycia o 'Ma **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España. Highlights of stage 17 **10.30** Hyd y Pwrs (r) **11.00-12.05am** Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd Shane ac Ieuan (r)

MindGames

Poker Byron Jacobs

Betting merged

Last week's column touched on the concept of *betting merged.* This is a mechanism to address the problem that if you only ever bet strongly with very strong hands, you become rather easy to read. In a game of incomplete information, being easy to read is never good. The way to circumvent this issue is to also bet strongly with (some) hands that don't merit it purely on value. You thus *merge* your betting range with hands that would normally be in your checking range and keep Villain guessing.

This is easier said than done. Hands that want to check want to do so for a reason, generally that they are not great and don't wish to inflate the pot. Nevertheless, if you are going to bet merged you have to find candidate hands to add to your betting range, so how can you go about doing this?

This is a complex topic but most hands that can be considered will either be strong draws, or have good blockers. Let's consider examples of each.

1) Strong draws. These are hands that currently have little worth but have the potential to become very strong. Examples are Q♥-J♥ on a K♥-8♥-7♦ flop or J♦-10♦ on a Q♥-9♣-6♠ flop. Neither hand has much current value but the former can become a flush and the latter a straight. Strong betting from such hands can persuade Villain to fold a moderate one-pair hand. Also, with draws this strong on the flop Hero's chance to win the hand against a better holding will typically be about 35 to 40 per cent. So, even when it is impossible to get Villain to fold, Hero still wins a decent amount of the time.

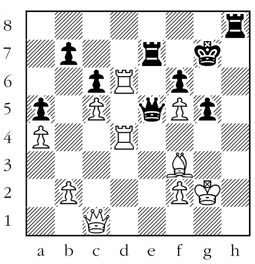
2) Hands with blockers. The concept of a blocker is subtle but can be stated quite simply. If you hold a certain card in your hand it means your opponent can't have it. You are *blocking* them from holding that card.

Let's say the preflop betting suggests you could easily have a monster hand while Villain's is more modest. Your actual holding is J♥-J♦ and the flop is A♥-K♠-10♣. This is, in principle, a very bad flop for your hand as any A-x or K-x hand has overtaken your jacks. However, because of the preflop betting you can easily have monster hands such as A-A, K-K and A-K. Remember that Villain bet more modestly preflop and so doesn't (or at least shouldn't) hold these hands.

Betting hard to *represent* such hands can work well, *unless* you run into the nightmare scenario where Villain holds the monster Q-J, giving them a straight. However, your J-J *blocks* this holding. It doesn't mean Villain cannot have Q-J, it just makes it much less likely. For this reason J-J is potentially a great hand to apply pressure to try to get folds from Villain's moderate A-x and K-x holdings.

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki
go to page 10

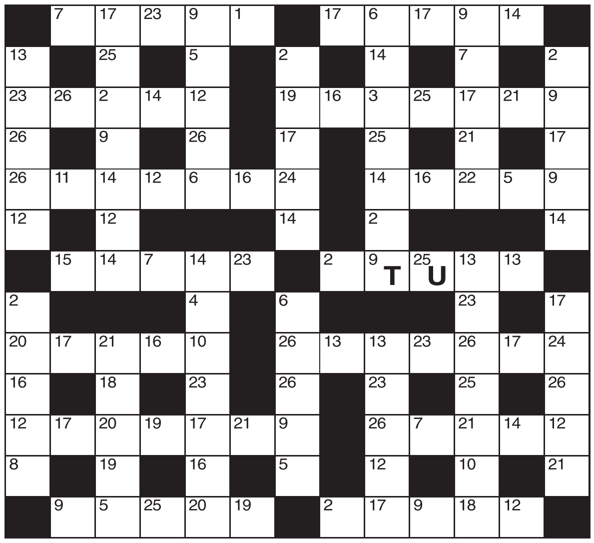
Winning Move



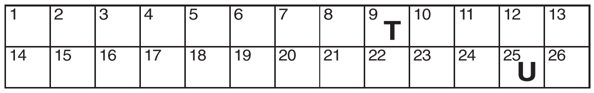
Black to play.
This position is from Dionigi-Machidon, La Regina 2023.

White is a piece ahead here and it does not appear that Black has sufficient compensation. There is some pressure against the white king and a check on h2 by either the queen or the rook is possible but this does not seem to lead anywhere. However, an accurate sequence will enable Black to escape with a draw. Can you see what he should play?

Codeword No 5005



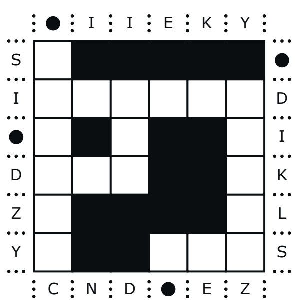
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

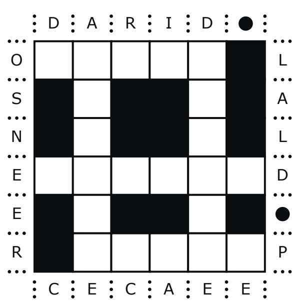


Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

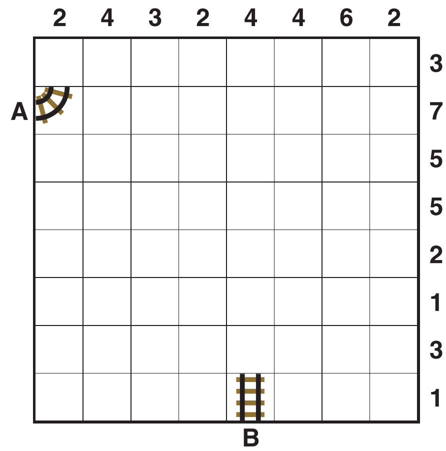
Lexica No 7045 No 7046





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2038



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Stop and leave play area (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Didn't remain emotionally affected (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Doctor provided time? That makes sense (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Hardy tug rarely exposed to the wind? (8)

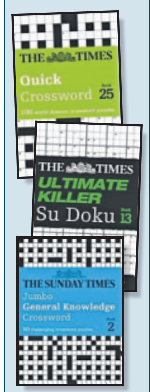
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 French article left in grass, not returned (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	D	D	D	D	E	E
E	F	G	H	I	I	K	M
N	O	P	Q	R	R	R	R
T	T	T	U	U	U	V	Y

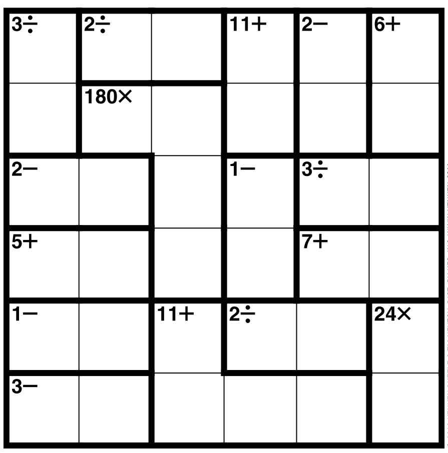
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Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

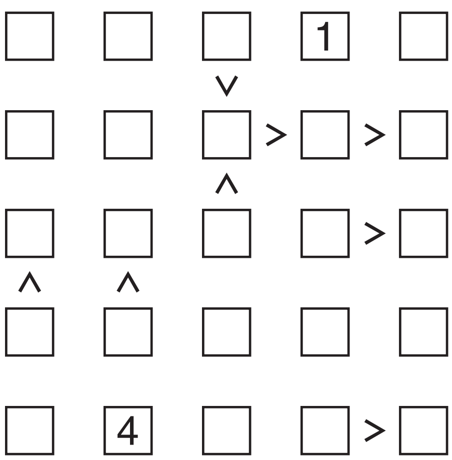
KenKen Medium No 5997



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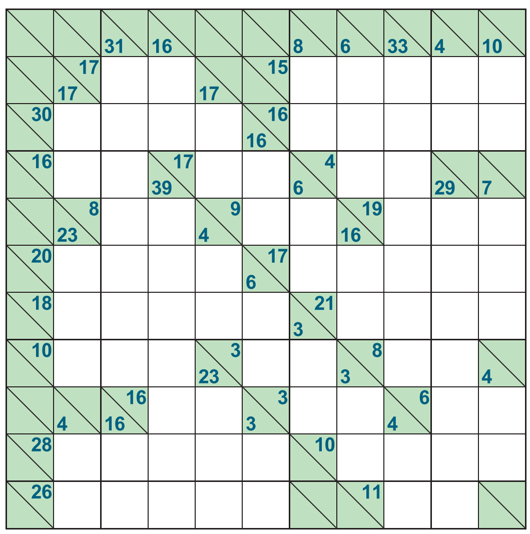
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4563



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3522

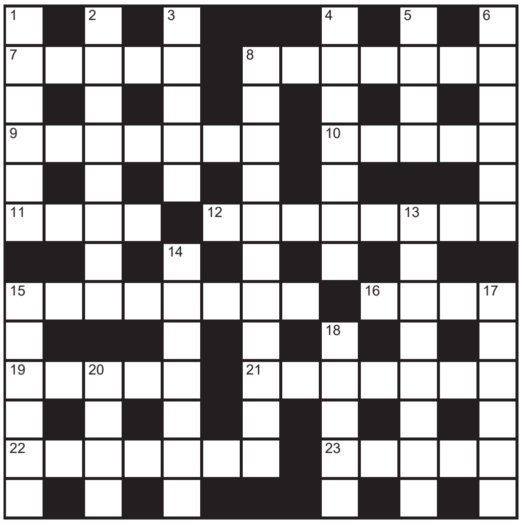


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9321



Across
7 Token of achievement (5)
8 Envisage (7)
9 Bunch of flowers (7)
10 Of dense foliage or hair (5)
11 Step of a ladder; chimed (4)
12 Victorian poet laureate (8)
15 Grumble (8)
16 Melt (4)
19 Ancient language (5)
21 Precious gemstone (7)
22 Manage, be in charge of (7)
23 Cloudless (5)

Down
1 Curved road surface (6)
2 Tree with drooping clusters of yellow blossoms (8)
3 Scent (5)
4 Mandible (7)
5 Thick paints (4)
6 From Nairobi or Mombasa, eg (6)
8 Centrally (2,3,6)
13 Large sherry glass (8)
14 Cunning (7)
15 Naive, inexperienced (6)
17 Long waterproof boots (6)
18 Quickstep or foxtrot, eg (5)
20 Adolescent (4)

Solution to Crossword 9320



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Top Tens
B. Declarer
5. Look for opportunities to ruff in the short trump hand
(i) Don't get greedy

If you have a trump suit of, say, ♥AQ1086 facing ♥KJ9, you start with five trump tricks. You'll gain extra tricks by ruffing with ♥KJ9, but not with ♥AQ1086 (unless you can ruff three times, but that's another story).

On our introductory deal, East opened 1NT and you as South overcalled 2♠, ending the auction. Plan the play on ♥10 lead.

North: ♠J103 ♥AQ53 ♦63 ♣10843
West: ♠65 ♥1097 ♦Q872 ♣KJ75
East: ♠874 ♥KJ86 ♦AK94 ♣Q9
South: ♠AKQ92 ♥42 ♦J105 ♣A62

You can count seven winners. The heart finesse could provide an eighth (if West has led from ♥K109). However, the danger of finessing ♥Q is that East wins ♥K and returns ... a trump.

Having escaped a trump lead from West, there's a surefire route to an eighth trick — ruffing a diamond in dummy, the short trump hand. Win ♥A and lead ♦3. East wins ♦K and returns ♠4 (best — trying to remove dummy's trumps). You win (say) dummy's ♠10 and lead ♦6. East wins ♦A and leads ♠7. You win ♠9 and ruff ♦J with dummy's remaining ♠J — that's your extra trick. All that remains is to cross to ♣A and score three more spade tricks. Eight tricks made, leaving West to rue her lack of a trump opening lead (enabling the defence to lead trumps three times and so prevent the diamond ruff).

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

North: ♠AJ4 ♥53 ♦J532 ♣7432
West: ♠862 ♥AQ10 ♦Q94 ♣QJ106
East: ♠9 ♥J9864 ♦K1086 ♣985
South: ♠KQ10753 ♥K72 ♦A7 ♣AK

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	End		

West leads ♣Q. Plan the play.

It is tempting to cross to ♠J and lead towards ♥K. If East holds ♥A, you'll promote ♥K and also have the tempo to ruff a third heart in dummy — you'll make an overtrick. Here, however, West would beat ♥K with ♥A and play a second spade. When you lost the second heart, West would win and lead a third spade. With dummy out of trumps, you'd be one down.

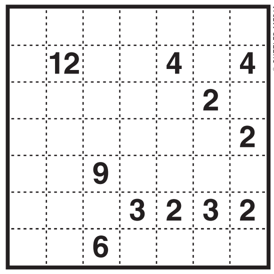
Don't be greedy. At trick two, lead a heart out of hand. Let West win and switch to a spade (wishing she'd led one initially). Win and lead a second heart. You win the defence's second spade and ruff your third heart (♥K) in dummy. Ten tricks and game made.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 19	x 3	+ 7	÷ 4	+ 9	3/5 OF IT	+ 8	x 2	+ 8	x 2	ANSWER
MEDIUM 72	+ 95	x 5	− 87	75% OF IT	x 2	− 98	7/8 OF IT	− 44	+½ OF IT	ANSWER
HARDER 107	x 9	+ 772	80% OF IT	+ 824	+½ OF IT	+ 984	x 2	− 886	½ OF IT	ANSWER

Cell Blocks No 4888



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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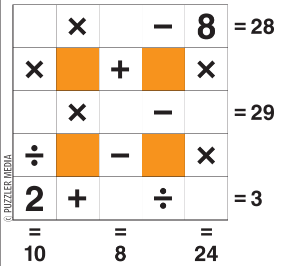
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 10 words, average; 14, good; 22, very good; 30, excellent

Yesterday's answers
cep, cess, crêpy, cress, **cypress**, espy, pec, per, press, prey, pyre, rec, rep, rye, sec, spec, syce, yes

Set Square No 3525

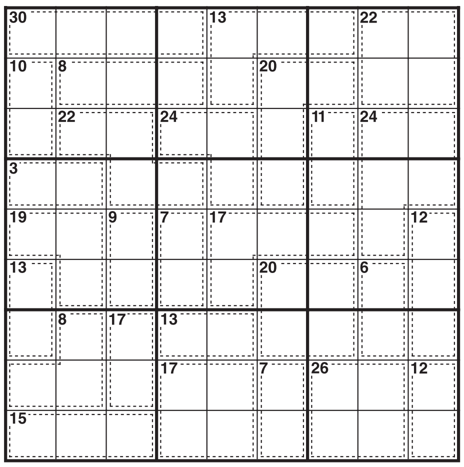


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

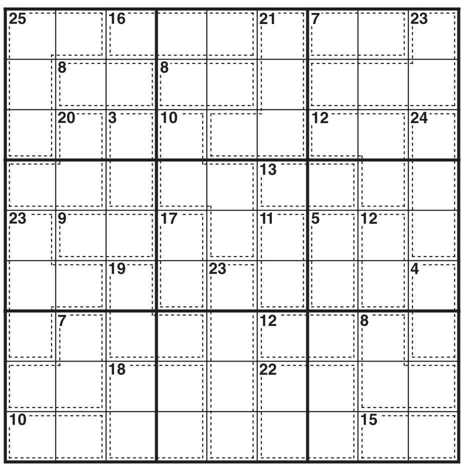
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Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Tricky No 9066



Killer Deadly No 9067

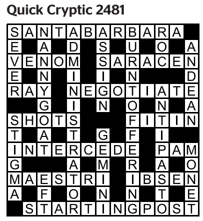


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

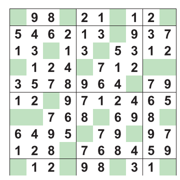
Quick Cryptic 2481



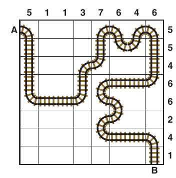
Codeword 5004



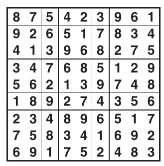
Kakuro 3521



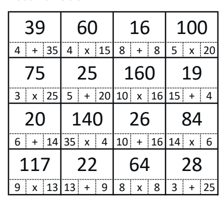
Train Tracks 2037



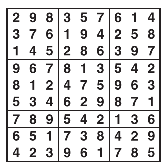
Sudoku 14,316



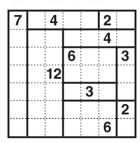
Tetonor 395



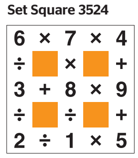
Sudoku 14,317



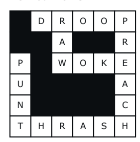
Cell Blocks 4887



Set Square 3524



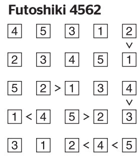
Lexica 7043



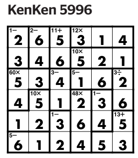
Sudoku 14,318



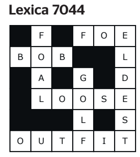
Futoshiki 4562



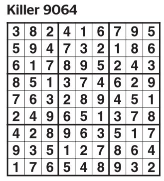
KenKen 5996



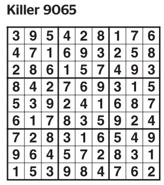
Lexica 7044



Killer 9064



Killer 9065

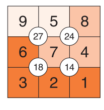


Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Focal **2** Weekly **3** Lateral **4** Athlete **5** Biology

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Park **2** Moved **3** Drift **4** Draughty **5** Unrequited

Suko 3906



Brain Trainer
Easy 108
Medium 1,278
Harder 3,859

Word watch
Irremeable (c) Affording no chance of return (*Collins*)
Mell (b) A hammer awarded to a loser (*OED*)
Kalopsia (a) A temporary state in which everything looks beautiful (*Brewer's*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 ... Qh2+! 2 Kf1 Qh1+! 3 Bxh1 Rxh1+ 4 Kg2 Rxc1 reaches a level endgame

Quiz
1 Tasmania **2** Hercule Poirot **3** Second World War **4** *Star Trek* **5** *Cracker* **6** *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* **7** River Dee **8** George Ezra **9** 1968 **10** *Gloriana* **11** Curlew or *Numenius arquata* **12** Dame Elisabeth Frink **13** Carla Zampatti **14** The US PGA Championship **15** Andrea Riseborough

MindGames

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Irremeable
a Mundane, everyday
b Ineligible for payment
c Affording no chance of return

Mell
a A chaotic brawl
b A hammer awarded to a loser
c A soothing song or lullaby

Kalopsia
a A state in which all looks beautiful
b A bountiful array
c A condition of good digestive health

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Difficult No 14,319

	5						9	
			4	6	2			
	1	2	6		7	3	8	
3				9				4
		4				2		
5								1
			9		8			
4		8		7		9		3

Fiendish No 14,320

					7	3	1	
8	4		3	5			2	
	6	1		2		7	9	
		4						
	9	7		4		1	3	
9	5		7	1			6	
					2	5	8	

Super fiendish No 14,321

			9		8			
	3	2	7		1	9	6	
2				6				4
	7						5	
4		1				6		7
	9	6				3	2	
				1				
		4	2		9	7		

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 "Tas" is an abbreviation for which Australian state?

2 Which Agatha Christie character is played by Kenneth Branagh in the 2023 film *A Haunting in Venice?*

3 Allied prisoners of war built the notorious Burma Railway during which war?

4 In the 2011 documentary *The Captains*, William Shatner interviewed actors about which media franchise?

5 Robbie Coltrane played the criminal psychologist Dr Edward "Fitz" Fitzgerald in which ITV drama?

BRUCE GLIKAS/GETTY IMAGES



15

6 French marine biologist Professor Pierre Aronnax narrates which Jules Verne novel?

7 Balmoral Castle is located on the right bank of which river?

8 *Wanted on Voyage* (2014) and *Gold Rush Kid* (2022) are albums by which English singer-songwriter?

9 The French term "*soixante-huitard*" refers to someone who took part in the student protests of which year?

10 Which Britten opera is based on Lytton Strachey's 1928 book *Elizabeth and Essex*?

11 Spotted by its long, down-curved bill, what is the largest European wading bird?

12 Which female sculptor created the Dorset Martyrs memorial (1986) in Dorchester?

13 Which Italian-born Australian fashion designer released the perfumes Carla (1983) and Bellezza (1987)?

14 Which major was won in 2017 and 2022 by the US golfer Justin Thomas?

15 Which Newcastle actress is this?

Answers on page 15

Suko
No 3906

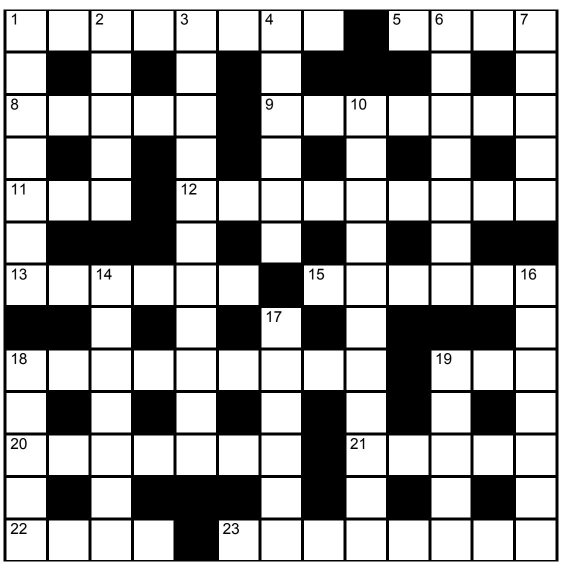
Circles in the grid: 27, 24, 18, 14

Colour totals: 14, 19, 12

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2482 by Felix



Across
1 Give a large amount in harmless display of aggression? (8)
5 Deal won't, oddly, start (4)
8 Watch, perhaps, maiden involved in row (5)
9 Increasingly perceptive, of abnormal stature (7)
11 Picks out one police officer (3)
12 Removes a bishop's pamphlets (9)
13 I've found it some mistake, ruefully reflecting (6)
15 We settled into cosy place, most modern! (6)
18 Allow writer one's eraser at the start (9)
19 Jump is hard work! (3)
20 Damage an arm in making film (4,3)
21 Brent's fliers? (5)
22 Came to window to look there, finally (4)
23 Happy kid's best clothes (4,4)

Down
1 Start unconventionally, manouevring two into employ (3-4)
2 French city has eminently risen — to an extent (5)
3 Arm, or back, or otherwise, a type of lawyer (7-4)
4 After golf day, sank unusual port (6)
6 Embassy staffer not drinking: a pain all round! (7)
7 Marines arriving in numbers bringing standards (5)
10 Sort of race featuring a tie between each team? (5-6)
14 Change of plan on Thursday, something writer needs (7)
16 Without pyjama jacket perhaps, so slept unsoundly (7)
17 Gesture aligns, somehow (6)
18 Missile, limited in range, heading off (5)
19 Scavenger's intense desire to enter hotel area (5)

Yesterday's solution on page 15

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Portree Isle of Skye



Isle of Harris

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Five nights' dinner, bed and Scottish breakfast accommodation at a series of hotels on the Isle of Skye (two nights), Stornoway (two) and Newtonmore (one)
- All ferry crossings
- Tour of the Isle of Skye and visit to Dunvegan Castle and Portree
- Tour of Harris and Lewis
- Visit to the Butt of Lewis and travel to Ullapool
- Return flights to Edinburgh or Inverness, with coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager



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Departs October, 2023 to October, 2024 from Euston Railway Station



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Edinburgh

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- Five breakfasts and four dinners
- Return travel on the Caledonian Sleeper Train from London Euston to Inverness and return from Edinburgh
- Transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

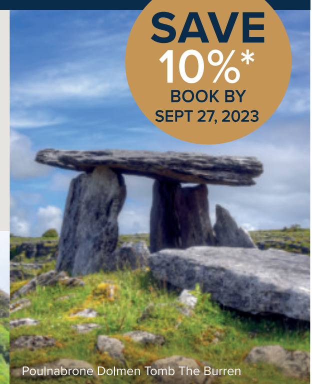
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Poulnabrone Dolmen Tomb The Burren



Kylemore Abbey, Galeway

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Five nights' dinner, bed and Irish breakfast accommodation at the four-star McWilliam Hotel, Claremorris
- Burren and Cliffs of Moher tour
- Killary Fjord cruise
- Admission to Kylemore Abbey and Glen Keen Farm
- Guided tour of Galway
- Return flights to Knock
- Coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

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Eight days now from **£977pp** was ~~£1,085pp~~

Portofino, Florence & Tuscany

Explore one of the Mediterranean's most exclusive corners, the beautiful Tuscan countryside and the stunning Cradle of the Renaissance.

Step into a region that is the living embodiment of La Dolce Vita. From your elegant spa base in Tuscany, you'll journey to the famous Ligurian coastal resorts of Santa Margherita and ultra-chic Portofino. On a captivating tour filled with Italian charm, colour and warmth, you'll also visit Florence – the exquisite Cradle of the Renaissance and one of Italy's most stylish cities – as well as Pisa and Lucca, two more Tuscan gems.

Departs April, 2024 to October, 2024



Portofino


Florence

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at the hotel of your choice
- Guided tours of Pisa and Lucca
- Excursion to the Ligurian coast
- Guided tour of Florence
- Boat trip around Portofino
- Return flights to Italy
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager, with specialist local guides where applicable


Lucca, Tuscany

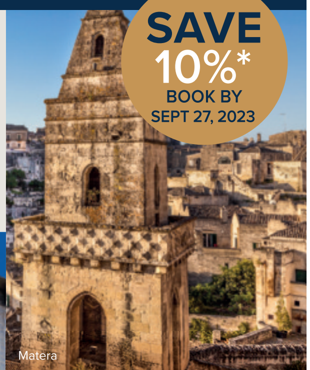
thetimes.co.uk/nh-portofino

Eight days from **£1,058pp** was ~~£1,175pp~~

Puglia & the South - Undiscovered Italy

Enjoy rest and relaxation on the shores of the Adriatic, and take in the often-overlooked delights of Italy's sun-kissed southern 'high heel'.

Departs April, 2024 to October, 2024



Matera


Trulli Houses

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Hotel del Levante, Torre Canne
- A tour of Apulia, Cisternino, Ostuni and Alberobello
- Tours of Lecce and the cave network at Matera
- Coach travel and transfers throughout
- Return flights to Bari
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager, with specialist local guides where applicable

thetimes.co.uk/nh-puglia

Eight days from **£1,490pp** was ~~£1,655pp~~

Classic Sicily, Etna & Taormina

Lift the veil on Italy's fascinating southern island outpost, its ancient treasures, natural wonders, sun-kissed beaches and elegant resorts.

Departs April, 2024 - October, 2024



Cefalu


Piazza Armerina

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Seven nights' carefully chosen dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at four-star hotels
- City tours of Palermo, Syracuse and Taormina
- Visit to Piazza Armerina and Casale's Roman villa
- A Mount Etna cable-car ascent
- A full-day tour to the Aeolian Islands
- Coach travel and transfers throughout
- Return flights to Sicily
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager, with specialist local guides where applicable

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Eight days now from **£1,223pp** was ~~£1,359pp~~

Beautiful Fjords of Western Norway

This journey to one of Europe's most delightful destinations promises a nature-centred getaway like no other.

This hugely popular holiday is a marvellous introduction to one of the world's most beautiful locations. Western Norway's fjord country has drawn eager visitors to its unique landscape for centuries. Here, sheer mountainsides plunge into the deep, dark waters and, beyond, its unspoilt landscape of forests, lakes and pristine glaciers is watched over by soaring peaks that are the refuges of sea eagles and reindeer. Few places in the world match the spectacle of this breathtaking region, which charms and captivates at every step.

Departs April, 2024 to October, 2024

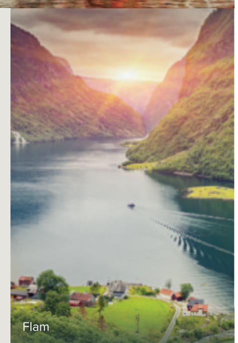


Bergen


Balestrand

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Seven nights' half-board accommodation at the four-star Kviknes Hotel in Balestrand, on Sognefjord
- Stay in a four-star Swiss-style fjord-side hotel
- Journey by boat through spectacular scenery to Bergen
- Discover the region on a fascinating 'Fjord Life' tour
- Tour Norway's interior on unforgettable optional excursions to the Jostedal Glacier, and to Mydal, Flam and Gudvangen
- Enjoy buffet-style meals served in a fine restaurant overlooking a fjord
- Experience a warm welcome, stunning scenery and beautiful views
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers
- A cruise to Bergen
- A full-day 'Fjord-Life' tour
- Return flights to Bergen
- The services of a friendly, knowledgeable and experienced tour manager


Flam

thetimes.co.uk/nh-norway

Seven days now from **£2,213pp** was ~~£2,459pp~~

Jordan - Petra & the Dead Sea

See for yourself some of the world's most awe-inspiring sights on this remarkable escorted tour to the friendly, welcoming Kingdom of Jordan. Discover Amman's mix of ancient and ultra-modern, Jerash's Roman remains and astonishing, breathtaking Petra. Travel through pristine desert landscapes, take the fabled King's Highway to Madaba, then end your unforgettable holiday with a few days relaxing on the shores of the mysterious Dead Sea.

Departs March, 2024 to November, 2024



Dead Sea


The monastery of Petra

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Six nights' half-board accommodation at four-star and five-star hotels in Amman (two nights), Petra (two) and the Dead Sea Resort (two)
- Return flights to Amman
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers throughout
- All visits and excursions
- The services of a friendly, experienced tour manager

thetimes.co.uk/nh-jordan

Nine days now from **£1,268pp** was ~~£1,409pp~~

Istanbul, Ephesus & Troy

Soak up the colour and excitement of one of the world's most exciting cities – the former Imperial capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires – and step back in time as you wander through some of its finest classical sites. Make the most of an opportunity to visit the remarkable natural phenomenon of Pamukkale on an optional tour, and enjoy the sun-kissed warmth and welcome of Aegean shores as you spend three nights in Kusadasi.

Departs April to October, 2024

Three night half-board and five night all inclusive extensions also available



The Blue Mosque, Istanbul


Celsus Library, Ephesus

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Eight nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at hotels in Istanbul (three nights) Canakkale (one) and Kusadasi (three)
- Dinners at your hotels in Canakkale and Kusadasi
- Discover colourful Istanbul, straddling two continents
- See the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the famed Topkapi Palace
- Be amazed by the ruins of Ephesus
- Discover wonderful Pamukkale on an optional excursion
- Return flights from the UK to Istanbul
- Coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

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15 days now from **£3,092pp** was ~~**£3,435pp**~~

Canada - Niagara Falls to the Rockies and Vancouver

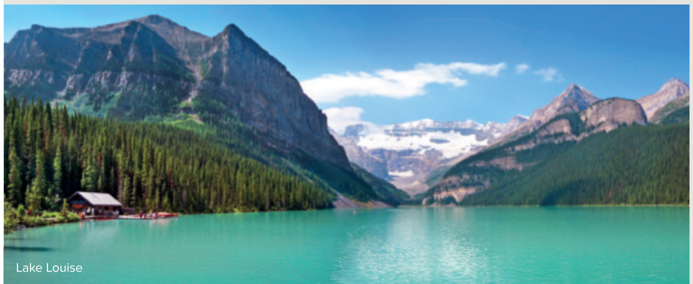
See Canada at its most glorious. From Niagara's tumult and Canada's Eastern cities to the majestic Rockies and sparkling Vancouver.

Experience the very best of this vast, beautiful country on an escorted tour that begins in lakeshore Toronto. See the plunging falls at Niagara, and head through picture-book Ontario via the grand Canadian capital, Ottawa, to the contrasting French Canadian jewels of Montréal and Québec City. You'll then fly west and journey through the Rockies to discover delightful British Columbia and friendly, lively Vancouver at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

Departs April to October, 2024



Niagara Falls


Lake Louise

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- 13 nights' room-only accommodation at a series of good-quality hotels in Toronto (two nights), Ottawa (one) Montréal, (two), Banff (two), Jasper (two), Sun Peaks (one) and Vancouver (three), plus one night on the aircraft
- Visit to Niagara Falls & Niagara on the Lake
- An internal flight from Montréal to Calgary
- Drive along the Maple Leaf Trail
- Return flights to Toronto (returning from Vancouver)
- Included visit to Quebec City
- Excursion to Lake Louise and a drive along the Icefields Parkway
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager


Chateau Frontenac Quebec City

thetimes.co.uk/nh-canada

13 days now from **£3,524pp** was ~~**£3,915pp**~~

Kruger Safari and South Mozambique Beach

A blend of thrilling bush adventuring and blissful beach lazing is up for the embracing on this family-friendly escape.

Donne your khaki gear, but don't forget your beach kit either, as this tour takes you into the heart of the Kruger National Park, as well the idyllically remote Machangulo peninsula of Mozambique.

Departs October, 2023 to November, 2025



South Mozambique Beach


Kruger National Park

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Ten nights' carefully chosen accommodation, including one at the five-star African Pride Irene Country Lodge, six at luxury tented Camp Bethel, and three at the boutique Machangulo Beach Resort, plus two on the aircraft
- 29 meals, including ten breakfasts, nine lunches and ten dinners. Included water, coffee, tea, and juice, together with local beers and wines during your stay at Camp Bethel
- Three guided safaris in the Kruger and Greater Kruger National Park
- A special South African braai in the bush
- Educative wildlife rehabilitation tour and a guided nature walk
- A panoramic mountain tour of the Drakensburg Mountains
- Nyani cultural tour with live music and dancing
- 50% off spa treatments at Machangulo Beach Resort
- Private speedboat transfer and transfers throughout
- Flights to Johannesburg and from Maputo
- Fully escorted by a friendly, knowledgeable tour manager and wildlife specialist, and a representative at Machangulo Beach Lodge

thetimes.co.uk/nh-kruger-mozambique

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11 days now from **£3,524pp** was ~~£3,915pp~~

Brazil and Argentina

Discover a duo of remarkable, contrasting cities on included tours, gaze in awe at Iguazú's plunging waters and take in the jaw-dropping views from Sugarloaf and Corcovado mountains as you savour some of the continent's finest wines, taste fine food and stay in a selection of four and five-star hotels. Spend time surrounded by astonishing new sights, unforgettable wonders and the verve and vibrancy of two of the world's most colourful nations.

Departs February, 2024 to November, 2025



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



La Boca, Buenos Aires

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Eight nights' carefully chosen bed and breakfast accommodation, plus two on the aircraft
- 11 meals, including eight breakfasts and three evening meals
- Included tours of Rio (two), Iguazú Falls and Buenos Aires
- Spend three nights at five-star hotel on lively Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro
- Take in the views from Sugarloaf Mountain
- Discover the Christ the Redeemer statue, one of the Seven Wonders of the New World
- Immerse yourself in the local culture with an included drink at a traditional carioca bar
- Spend two nights at a four-star resort at Iguazú Falls
- Explore both the Brazlian and Argentinian sides of the Unesco-listed Iguazú Falls National Park
- Enjoy three nights at four-star hotel in Buenos Aires, with an included city tour
- An included farewell dinner and Tango show on your last night
- The chance to join an optional Gaucho excursion into the pampas grassland surrounding Buenos Aires
- Return flights, outbound to Rio de Janeiro and return from Buenos Aires
- Comfortable coach transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

thetimes.co.uk/nh-brazil

12 days from **£3,272pp** was ~~£3,635pp~~

Ecuador – From the Andes to the Amazon

An epic voyage of trekking up the fossilised slopes of soaring volcanoes, discovering ancient Incan cities, and soaking in the steamy thermal waters of the Andean foothills.

Departs September, 2024 to November, 2025

Galapagos Cruise extension also available



Blue lagoon inside the crater of the Cotacachi volcano



Caiman Crocodile Amazonian Basin Ecuador

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- Nine nights' accommodation in a series of hotels, guesthouses and lodges in Quito (one night), Otavalo (two nights), Baños (two nights), the Amazon rainforest (three nights), Papallacta (one night) and two nights of air travel
- Nine breakfasts, four lunches, and three dinners
- A city tour of Quito
- A visit to a community project in Pijal
- An excursion to Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve and a boat ride across Cuicocha Crater Lake
- A visit to Otavalo Market
- A visit to Cotopaxi National Park and Cotopaxi Volcano
- A visit to Sangay National Park and waterfalls, and cable car ride across the Pastaza River Canyon
- A guided hike through the Amazon Rainforest
- A visit to Anaconda Island, meet with a local family and see an animal rescue centre
- A visit to the thermal pools of Papallacta
- Return flights from the UK to Quito
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

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15 days now from **£3,023pp** was ~~**£3,359pp**~~

Follow the Mekong - Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam

Take a colourful journey of a lifetime through South East Asia's verdant lands, experiencing unforgettable must-see highlights.

This extraordinary tour begins amid the excitement, noise and kaleidoscopic wonder of the Thai capital, Bangkok. After the chance to see the River Kwai, you'll journey into Cambodia, to explore the Khmer citadel of Angkor Thom, discover the vast serenity of Angkor Wat, and the palaces and museums of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. A scenic boat journey through the Mekong Delta brings you to Ho Chi Minh City – formerly and famously Saigon – a fitting finale to this wonderful tour of South East Asia.

Departs November, 2023 to November, 2025



Angkor Wat


Ho Chi Minh City

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- 12 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at a series of four-star hotels in Bangkok (three nights), Battambang (one), Siem Reap (three), Phnom Penh (one), Chaudoc (one), Cantho (one) and Ho Chi Minh City (two), plus two nights on the aircraft
- Six lunches and eight dinners
- Bangkok's Buddhas, palaces and monuments
- A visit to the floating markets at Damnoen Saduak and Cai Rang
- A visit to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon)
- Journey along the Mekong River by fast passenger boat
- Cruise across Tonlé Sap – South East Asia's 'Great Lake'
- A scenic journey to the Cambodian border and French colonial Battambang
- Two full days at Siem Reap, including a visit to the temples at Angkor Wat
- A city tour of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh
- A chance to see the infamous Cu Chi tunnel complex, a former Viet Cong hideaway
- Return flights on Singapore Airlines to Bangkok (returning from Ho Chi Minh City) via Singapore
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach and boat travel and transfers
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

thetimes.co.uk/nh-mekong

13 days now from **£2,709pp** was ~~**£3,009p**~~

Borneo's Orangutans and Rainforest Adventure

This wonderful holiday lifts the lid on Sabah, Malaysian Borneo's verdant jungle paradise, which is watched over by towering Mount Kinabalu and home to the endangered orangutan, proboscis monkey and the delightful sun bear, and fringed by pristine, white-sand beaches. With a host of included tours and experiences and the chance to rest and relax after the tour in an ocean-side spa resort, this is a perfect introduction to a stunning corner of the world.

Departs November, 2023 to November, 2025



The Village Of Tambatuon, Kota Belud



Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- 10 nights' carefully chosen bed and breakfast accommodation, plus two nights on the aircraft
- 20 meals, including ten breakfasts, five lunches and five dinners
- Visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and Sun Bear Conservation Centre
- Spend an unforgettable day at the Rainforest Discovery Centre
- Re-visit the Rainforest Discovery Centre for an optional night walk in search of nocturnal wildlife
- Get to know the unusual-looking proboscis monkey at a local sanctuary
- Wildlife cruises on the Kinabatangan River and oxbow lakes and a stay in a jungle lodge
- Discover beautiful Kinabalu Park and the therapeutic Poring Hot Springs
- Stay at the Sabah Tea Plantation
- Join an optional excursion to the Mari Mari Cultural Village and gain insight into the local culture
- Journey to former British colonial capital Sandakan
- End your trip with four days in a luxurious beach resort
- Outbound flight to Sandakan via Kuala Lumpur and returning from Kota Kinabalu via Kuala Lumpur
- Fully air-conditioned coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager (with the exception of the duration of your stay at the Shangri La Rasa Ria Resort)

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18 days now from **£2,536pp** was ~~£2,815pp~~

India's Golden Triangle, Shimla, and Amritsar's Golden Temple

Embark on an enrapturing journey through the cities of the Golden Triangle, stopping by some of the country's most holy sites and sojourning in the shadows of the Himalayas.

Departs April to November, 2024


Taj Mahal

SAVE 10%* BOOK BY SEPT 27, 2023


Golden Temple Amritsar

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- 16 nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast accommodation in a series of five-star hotels and one heritage hotel in Delhi (two nights), Amritsar (two nights), Shimla (two nights), Jaipur (two nights), Ranthambhore (two nights), Dholpur (one night) and Agra (one night), plus two nights in a heritage hotel in Pragpur and two nights on the aircraft
- 15 breakfasts, six lunches and 16 dinners
- Guided tour of Old Delhi and visit to Qutub Minar
- Train journey to Amritsar and Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple
- Golden Temple tour and a visit to Jallianwala Bagh and the Indo-Pakistani border
- Guided 'Heritage Walk' around Pragpur village
- Guided Dharamshala excursion and tour of Shimla
- Guided tour of Jaipur and visit to a local market
- Morning and afternoon jungle safaris in Ranthambore National Park
- A short cooking demonstration with a local chef in Dholpur
- A boat ride along the Chambal River and visit to Mehtab Bagh
- A guided tour of the Taj Mahal at sunset and Agra Fort
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers
- The services of a friendly, experienced tour manager
- Free wifi and bottled water is available every day on board the coach journeys
- Entrance fees to all monuments
- Return flights from the UK to Delhi

thetimes.co.uk/nh-goldentriangle

17 days was from **£3,870pp** now from ~~£4299pp~~

India & Nepal - Tigers, Taj & Temples

Discover the glorious 'Golden Triangle' cities, Ranthambhore's protected tigers, and an ancient land in the shadow of the mighty Himalayas.

Departs September, 2024 to November, 2025


Hawa Mahal the Palace of Winds, Jaipur

SAVE 10%* BOOK BY SEPT 27, 2023


Everest

Tour Highlights & Inclusions

- 15 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation with 8 lunches in a series of four-star and five-star standard hotels in Delhi (three nights), Agra (one), Ranthambhore (two), Jaipur (two), Vanaashrya (one), Kathmandu (two), Pokhara (two) and Chitwan (two), plus one night on the aircraft
- A guided tour of Agra and the Taj Mahal
- Entrance fees to all monuments
- Two safaris in search of Ranthambhore's tigers
- Visit the Taj Mahal at sunset in Agra
- A guided tour of Nepal's captivating capital, Kathmandu
- The sights of New Delhi, and a rickshaw ride through Old Delhi
- Chand Baori, Abhaneri's astonishing stepwell
- Visit Amber Fort and Jaipur's exquisite Palace of the Winds
- Dinner with a local family in Jaipur
- Staying in cottage accommodation at Vanaashrya
- Spend two days in Chitwan National Park
- Enjoy a canoe trip and jeep safari
- See the sun rise over the Annapurna range
- A day in Pokhara
- Dinner at the climbers' restaurant, the Rum Doodle
- An internal flight from Delhi to Kathmandu
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- Free wifi and bottled water is available every day on board the coach journeys

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